No. 28.

GAMBIA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 99, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	,,
106	British Guiana	,,
107	Barbados	,,
108	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
109	Western Australia	,,
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	,,
113	Falkland Islands	,,
114	Basutoland	1889–90
115	Sierra Leone	1889
116	Fiji	,,
117	Hong Kong	,,
118	St. Helena	,,

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1	British Honduras	1889
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5	Newfoundland	,,
6	British New Guiana	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	,,
9	Leeward Islands	1889–90
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	,,
12	Turk's and Caicos Islands	,,
13	Gibraltar	,,
14	Zululand	,,
15	Sierra Leone	,,
16	Barbados	,,
17	Faulkland Islands	,,
18	Labuan	,,
19	British Honduras	,,
20	Basutoland	1889–90
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	,,
23	Grenada	,,
24	Straits Settlements	,,
25	British Guiana	,,
26	St. Helena	,,
27	Mauritius	,,

No. 28.

GAMBIA.

[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 98, Old Series.]

Administrator LLEWELYN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Bathurst,
September 25, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, in duplicate, the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1890, together with my report thereon.

2. I regret the late date at which this is forwarded to your Lordship, but on my arrival here, at the end of April, the preparation of the returns had not been commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1890.

Taxes.

There has been no alteration in the tariff during the year, but the additional duty of a farthing a lb. on kola nuts, first imposed in 1888 for one year, and continued then for another year, was made permanent by Ordinance No. 5 of 1890.

A dog license of 5*s.* was imposed for the first time by Ordinance No 4 of 1890.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue for the year amounted to 30,573*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and the expenditure to 22,758*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, showing an excess of the former over expenditure of nearly 8,000*l.*

This gratifying result is due to the continuation of the improved trade in ground nuts, the export of which was about the same as in 1889, but double that of 1888.

The expenditure amounted to 22,758*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, about 1,200*l.* more than in the previous year, but it includes the cost (1,600*l.*)

GAMBIA.

of a steam launch, so that the ordinary expenditure was not more than in 1889, whilst the revenue shows an increase of 4,000*l.*

The Colony is free from any public debt, and, what is still more gratifying, had on the 31st December the sum of 13,891*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* invested in various Government securities in England, bearing interest.

Public Works.

No public works of an exceptional or new character were undertaken, and the expenditure was confined to general repairs to buildings and roads throughout the Colony.

Legislation.

Six Ordinances were passed during the year, of which two were the Annual Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Ordinances.

One imposed a license on dogs; another made permanent the additional import duty of ¼*d.* per lb. on kola nuts.

The only Ordinances not dealing with fiscal arrangements were the "Ticket of Leave" Ordinance, and the "Intestates Estates" Ordinance.

Executive and Legislative Councils.

The only change in the Councils was the appointment of the Honourable James Topp to be an unofficial member of the Executive Council.

Civil Establishment.

In the Civil Service, the following were the principal changes:—

Dr. A. Woodburn Heron was appointed Colonial Surgeon, vice Dr. Spilsbury, deceased, and Dr. Morgan Ignatius Finucane succeeded as Assistant Colonial Surgeon Dr. P. J. Rendall who resigned his appointment in August.

Mr. C. H. Hingeston, who was appointed Colonial Engineer at the end of June, died on the 1st of October, and was succeeded in December by Mr. James Collie.

Colonel J. F. Tighe was appointed Superintendent of Police in May but retired in October.

Pensions.

An addition of 15*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* was made to the list by the grant of that amount from Gambia Funds to Edwin Adolphus, formerly Chief Magistrate in the Colony.

The total amount of pensions payable annually is now 1,380*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

Population.

The Registrar makes the following report on the births, deaths, and marriages for the year :—

Births.

"The births registered during the year under review amounted to 348, showing a decrease on the births of 1889 of 21. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population, computing on the basis of the figures of the last decennial census, was 24·59.

"Of the births 169 were males, and 179 were females.

"Of the 348 births, 340 were blacks and 8 hybrids.

Deaths.

"The deaths in 1890 numbered 719 inclusive of still-births, which is equivalent to 50·81 per 1,000 of the population, or nearly twice as many as in 1889.

"This abnormal increase on the death-rate was owing to an outbreak of influenza epidemic which raged in the Colony and in the adjacent territories in the earlier months of the year. The following tabular statements show the births and deaths in the Colony from the year 1885 to 1890 inclusive :—

Comparative Summary of Births from 1885 *to* 1890.

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1885 -	20	10	15	7	16	16	16	32	24	28	32	16	232
1886 -	22	19	18	14	15	18	20	15	19	23	23	14	220
1887 -	18	9	15	25	20	18	20	31	27	41	41	20	293
1888 -	19	30	18	25	26	26	32	42	42	46	32	42	380
1889 -	36	36	27	26	27	32	27	20	38	33	35	32	369
1890 -	30	24	26	18	35	33	29	33	35	33	19	25	345

Camparative Summary of Deaths from 1885 *to* 1890.

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1885 -	30	23	33		30	39	41	41	64	68	53	55	512
1886 -	67	41	32	22	33	42	35	51	56	71	54	62	566
1887 -	46	38	41	50	60	92	91	104	101	95	84	69	871
1888 -	46	70	39	22	40	33	55	60	66	66	42	43	584
1889 -	52	51	42	41	32	36	40	43	66	42	44	43	532
1890 -	68	60	114	53	58	43	34	56	67	48	54	56	719

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"As the writer has often pointed out, the numbers given in the returns of births cannot be relied upon for the purpose of statistical information, many births within the area of registration not being recorded for the reasons suggested in his last report.

"The number of deaths during the year was, as already stated, 719, as against 532 in the preceding year. The number includes four Europeans and eight hybrids. The causes of European deaths were acute pneumonia, sunstroke, remittent fever, and disease of the respiratory organs.

"Of the deaths 391 were males, and 328 were females.

"Infant mortality is an extremely regrettable feature in the death roll, 194 infants, including children up to five years, having died during the year, equivalent to 26·98 per cent. of the total deaths.

"The number of deaths medically certified was 35, of which 20 were by the Colonial Hospital Returns and 15 by the coroner's inquisitions.

"The following were the registered causes of death :—

Abscess, 1; asthma, 1; beri-beri or sleeping sickness, 1; boils, 2; bowel complaints, 31; bronchitis, 10; cerebral disease, 1; chest affections, 96; childbirth, 10; consumption, 3; convulsions, 15; cystitis, 1; debility, 6; diarrhœa, 7; dropsy, 58; drowning, 4; dysentery, 4; epilepsy, 1; execution, 2; fevers, 102; gout, 1; heart disease, 5; insanity, 3; kidney disease, 1; leprosy, 4; liver complaints, 2; nephritis, 2; paralysis, 1; pericarditis, 1; phthisis, 1; pleurisy and pleuro-pneumonia, 11; rheumatism, 1; rupture, 2; scrofula, 5; senile decay, 11; sore throat, 1; sunstroke, 1; still-births, 35; teething, 2; traumatic tetanus, 5; ulcers, 14; venereal diseases, 3; wounds, 2; causes not defined, 249.

"The occupations and status of the people who died during the year under report were as follows:—alien African children, 3; Arabic teachers, 6; blacksmiths, 2; butcher, 1; carpenters, 3; canoemen, 2; civil officers, 2; convict prisoners, 6; cooks, 5; cowmen, 3; domestic servants, 3; farmers, 269; ferryman, 1; fishermen, 6; gardener, 1; goldsmith, 1; grooms, 2; infants, 194; labourers, 31; laundresses, 7; masons, 2; paupers, 6; pedlar, 1; pensioner, 1; police constables, 6; sailors, 18; seamstresses, 4; shipwrights, 4; shoemaker, 1; tailor, 1; traders, 37; weavers, 3; writing clerks, 3; unspecified or of no occupation, 49.

Marriages.

"The number of marriages solemnised in 1890 amounted to 18, an increase of 2 on the figures of 1889. Ten of the marriages were solemnised in the Church of England, six in the Roman Catholic Church, and two by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society."

Aliens.

The number of aliens on the register on the 31st day of December 1890 was 378.

There were five aliens registered, viz.:—two Jolahs, one Mandingo, one Joloff, and one Bambara.

Three aliens died during the year, 15 were discharged on attaining the age limit prescribed by the Alien Registration Ordinance, and 32 were temporarily removed from the Colony, of whom 18 have returned.

Education.

The Inspector of Schools in his report for the year winds up as follows:—"As the sum of my review I can only say that if "numerically there is decrease, efficiency has gained in every "way."

	£	s.	d.
The Roman Catholic schools with European masters and mistresses still hold their position as head of the denominations and earned - -	135	14	0
The Anglicans - - -	78	7	0
The Wesleyans - - -	60	14	6

an increase in each case on the previous year, but not so marked in the Wesleyans as in the others.

Imports and Exports.

I submit a comparative table for the years 1889 and 1890, showing the difference in each year between the principal articles of import and export:—

Imports.

Articles.	1890.	1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods - - -	37,225*l.*	35,857*l.*	1,368*l.*	—
Tobacco - - -	215,039 lbs.	296,978 lbs.	—	81,939 lbs.
Kola nuts - - -	601,319 lbs.	682,432 lbs.	—	81,113 lbs.
Spirits of all kinds - -	43,323 galls.	40,108 galls.	3,215 galls.	—
Wines - - - -	16,317 galls.	16,912 galls.	—	595 galls.
Sugar - - - -	121,677 lbs.	122,390 lbs.	—	713 lbs.
Salt - - - -	936 tons	691 tons	245 tons.	—
Fire-arms - - -	3,849	1,735	2,114	—
Gunpowder - - -	858 brls.	508 brls.	350 brls.	—
Rice - - - -	823 tons.	906 tons	—	83 tons

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Exports.

Articles.	1890.	1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts	18,262 tons Value, 129,817*l.*	19,636 tons Value, 140,0[illegible]*l.*	—	1,374 tons. Value 10,269
Hides	1,093*l.*	2,075*l.*	—	982*l.*
Rubber	154,737 lbs. Value, 10,144*l.*	55,548 lbs. Value, 3,470*l.*	99,189*l.* Value 6,674	—
Palm kernels	3,131 tons	243 tons	2,888 tons	—
Wax	1,744*l.*	2,292*l.*	—	548*l.*

Shipping.

The number of sailing vessels entered was 63 compared with 50 in the previous year, but the total tonnage was a trifle less.

The total number of steamers that arrived was 107, (74 British and 33 foreign) compared with 102, and the tonnage, amounted to 105,700 tons, or about 12,000 tons more than in the previous year.

Prisons.

The following table shows a comparison of the number of committals in the years 1889 and 1890:—

Year.	Total Number of Prisoners committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody or want of Bail.	Penal Punishment.	Daily Average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1889	94	1	18	75	50	22	2	3
1890	59	2	13	44	31	20	2	6

These figures show a marked decrease in the number of committals, and in the daily average number in prison, but the number of deaths was six as against three in the previous year. I believe no special cause can be assigned for this, and the verdict in each case was "natural causes." The number of escapes increased from one to three, and only two of these were recaptured.

Criminal Statistics.

The comparative returns submitted show an apparent marked decrease in the crime of the Colony, but I am afraid I must agree with the Chief Magistrate, who in his report on the statistics writes as follows:—

"I regret my inability to express as my opinion that the statistics are an infallible touchstone of the increase or diminution of crime in the Colony, for there can be no doubt that the practice of compounding offences and of stifling prosecutions prevails in this Colony. There is also no such institution here as a public

prosecutor, nor can it be said that the police force is very effective. Taking as an example, such a simple offence as that of committing nuisance, there were only 10 cases reported in Bathurst during the year 1890, but no one who knows anything of the place and of the influx of Jolahs and other savages into it, can believe that that number correctly represents the number of nuisances actually committed in the course of that year. From the evidence of my own senses I would be more inclined to believe that it would have more correctly represented the number of nuisances committed in a week."

Year.	Total Number of Offences committed.	Offences against the Person.	Larceny.	Offences to Property other than Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.
1889 - - -	256	82	48	16	110
1890 - - -	201	49	36	9	107

Apprehensions and Summonses, and Disposition of foregoing Cases.

Year.	Number discharged for want of Prosecution or Evidence.	Number of Cases dismissed on Merits.	Number of Persons summarily convicted.	Number of Persons committed for Trial in the Superior Courts.
1889 - -	52	33	127	44
1890 - -	50	38	95	18

Year.	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Larceny.	Other Offences to Property.	Offences relating to Social Economy of Gambia.	Offences against Master and Servants Act.	Other Offences.	Total.
1889	32	—	21	5	—	6	63	127
1890	15	—	15	—	—	4	61	95

Punishments in connexion with foregoing.

Year.	Fine.	Imprisonment in lieu of Fine or Surety.	Peremptory Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Bound over with or without Sureties or other minor Punishments.	Total.
1889 - - -	84	15	28	—	—	127
1890 - - -	74	1	20	—	—	95

Hospitals.

Five patients remained in the hospital at the end of 1889, and 172, against 176 in the previous year, were admitted for treatment. The out-patients increased from 4,973 in 1889 to 5,374, which, I hope, tends to show that the people are gradually getting to appreciate the efforts made by the Government to alleviate their sufferings. 23 deaths occurred in the hospital, including one European, but there was no epidemic, and no deaths from fever, the principal cause being 9 from respiratory diseases.

Meteorology.

The rainfall for the year amounted to 60·31 inches, nearly double the quantity of the years 1888 and 1889, which were both very dry years. Out of the total fall, 53 inches fell in July, August, and September, which with October, when the water begins to dry up, are four very trying months to pass in the Gambia.

Savings Bank.

The business of the savings bank I am glad to report continues to increase steadily.

On the 31st December 1889, the amount of deposits was 616*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, increased at the end of 1890 to 879*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, owned by 84 depositors.

There are 26 friendly societies in the Colony with amounts invested ranging from 83*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* to 2*l.* 6*s.*, and I believe they all do some good.

General Remarks.

From all I can learn, for I was not in the Colony during any part of the year, the year was a fairly prosperous one, and no incident of particular note occurred except the arrival in December of the officers of the Anglo-French Boundary Commission, who most successfully brought their work to a close in the month of June last.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN.

Gambia,
17th September 1891.

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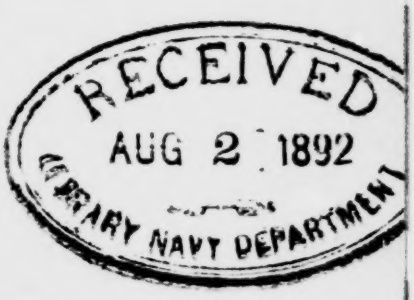
COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 41.

GAMBIA.



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(For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 28.)

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
5	Newfoundland	1889
6	British New Guinea	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	,,
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	,,
12	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
13	Gibraltar	,,
14	Zululand	,,
15	Sierra Leone	,,
16	Barbados	,,
17	Falkland Islands	,,
18	Labuan	,,
19	British Honduras	,,
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	,,
23	Grenada	,,
24	Straits Settlements	,,
25	British Guiana	,,
26	St. Helena	,,
27	Mauritius	,,
28	Gambia	,,
29	Hong Kong	,,
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	,,
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	,,
34	Newfoundland	,,
35	Jamaica	1889–91
36	Victoria	1890
37	British New Guinea	1890–91
38	St. Vincent	1891
39	Bermuda	,,
40	Seychelles and Rodrigues	1889 and 1890

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.

No. 41.

GAMBIA.

[For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report, [Annual], No. 28.]

Administrator LLEWELLYN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Bathurst,
March 31, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1891, together with a short report on the several heads in the Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LLEWELLYN,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1891.

Taxes, &c.

No change was made during the year in any of the sources of revenue of the Colony.

Revenue and Expenditure.

It is gratifying to be able to record that the revenue, 31,038*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, was larger than in any previous year in the history of the Colony and there is every reason to hope that it will continue to increase year by year.

The expenditure amounted to 27,697*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* There is no public debt and the surplus of assets on the 31st of December amounted to 18,102*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, the greater part of which is deposited at interest in England.

The expenditure was heavier by nearly 5,000*l.* than in the previous year but the cost of the Anglo-French Boundary

Commission and the purchase of a house for the office of the Governor amount to 2,835*l.*

Legislation.

Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year, comprising the following:—

To prevent the keeping of swine in the town of Bathurst.

To amend the constitution of the Board of Health, and provide for the appointment of an Inspector of nuisances.

To abolish the visiting Justices of the prison and appoint an Inspector of prisons.

The other nine Ordinances included the Census, Annual Approbation Ordinance, and amendments in other Ordinances of small importance.

An Ordinance was passed on the 20th July to regulate the importation and disposal of arms, ammunition, &c., but owing to some unexpected delay in the ratification of the Brussels Conference Act, 1889–90, the Ordinance has not been assented to and will be re-enacted and amended when this matter is finally settled

Civil Establishment.

Mr. Gilbert T. Carter, C.M.G., Administrator, was promoted to be Governor of Lagos, and left the Gambia on the 2nd of March. Mr. R. B. Llewellyn. C.M.G., was appointed to succeed Mr. Carter, and assumed his duties on the 19th April.

Mr. Mitford, the Treasurer, was appointed Treasurer at Sierra Leone and left the Gambia on the 9th February.

Mr. Mosely, formerly Civil Commandant at Sherbro, was appointed Treasurer and arrived in the Colony on the 16th of March.

Captain T. M. Hawtayne, of the North Staffordshire Regiment, was appointed Superintendent of Police and Sheriff and arrived in the Colony on the 4th of April.

Mr. Smith, Manager of McCarthy's Island, retired on account of ill-health in January and was succeeded in July by Mr. R. H. Sycett, who for some years had been confidential clerk in the Administrator's Office.

Pensions.

The pensioners of the previous year still remained on the list with the following additions: Serjeant-Major Paul, 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; W. J. Davis, Senior Landing Waiter, 34*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* The total amount of pensions payable on the 31st of December was 1,447*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

A gratuity of 50*l.* was voted by the Council to the widow of Mr. Smith, Manager of McCarthy's Island, who died in May, almost immediately after he had retired on account of ill-health.

Military Expenditure.

A detachment of the West India Regiment arrived in the Colony on the 14th of July, so there has been a slight expenditure under this heading for the allowance given to the officers and men as customary elsewhere in lieu of any exemption from customs duties.

Public Works.

No important new work was undertaken.

A house in the same block where Government House is was purchased for 500*l.* and has been fitted up as an office for the Administrator, a council chamber, and the printing office and stationery store.

These offices were formerly in one of the wings of Government House and since their removal the former office of the Clerks has been fitted up as a billiard room with a bedroom above, and in the basement the orderly of the Governor has a room.

The public buildings, generally speaking, are not in good repair, and will require continual work on them for a few years to get them into thorough order.

Population and Vital Statistics.

A census was taken on the 5th April, and the following is briefly the result.

Europeans, British	-	16
„ French	-	24
„ German	-	2
„ Portuguese	-	8
„ Swiss	-	6
„ Italian	-	6

Of the British, 10 were females, including six or severn sisters' at the Convent.

The six Italians represented the travelling hawkers of strings of coral, and the eight Portuguese were sailors on board a vessel in port on the day the Census was taken. I do not believe that the actual permanent European residents number more than 45, and as about half of these are absent in Europe every year during the rainy season, the death-rate of 4 out of about 25, is practically equivalent to about 15 per cent. of the white population, whilst about 4½ per cent. of the natives die.

The Census returns are not a correct index of the population which apparently only amounts to 14,266, and, it is needless to add, that except in Bathurst, and perhaps British Combo, the difficulties of obtaining any correct statistics are stupendous.

GAMBIA.

I attach herewith the report of the Registrar on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages for the year.

Births.

The number of births registered during the period under review was 423, as against 348 in 1890. The rate of births to population, computing on the basis of the Census Statistics taken in April last, is 29·65 per 1,000. Sexually divided there were 226 males and 197 females. Of these 285 were registered at Bathurst, 28 at British Combo, 69 at Albreda and the Ceded Mile Districts, and 41 at Macarthy's Island.

Legitimate births numbered 26, or 6·15 per cent. of the registered births. It is fair to observe that many children, returned as irregularly born, were the issues of the Mahommedan or native marriages not legally recognised.

Deaths.

The registered deaths numbered 657 including still births, showing a decrease on the deaths of 1890 of 62. The deaths were distributed as under:—

Bathurst - - - - -	345
British Combo - - -	77
Ceded Mile - - - - -	197
Macarthy's Island - - -	38
Total - -	657

The rate of deaths to population is 46·05 per 1,000.

Four Europeans died during the year, from the following causes;—bilious hæmaturic fever, 1; uræmia, 1; meningitis and remittent fever, 1; phthisis pulmonaris ,1; 186 infants, inclusive of children up to five years of age, died during the same period, equivalent to 28·3 per cent. of the total deaths.

It would seem now to be an indisputable fact, in view of the recent Census returns, that the population of the Colony, if not declining, has remained stationary since the past decade.

An epidemic of measles, of a rather severe type, prevailed in the latter half of the year, and several deaths were noted.

It is to be regretted that infant mortality formed so large an item in the death roll. Many of the ailments, under which a large number of children succumbed, were, if not preventible, readily amenable to medical treatment. I am of opinion that this abnormal rate of mortality, may be attributed to the criminal negligence of ignorant and superstitious parents, who would resort to quacks or to charms, and such like agencies, to pro-

pitiate malevolent influences rather than obtain proper medical relief for their sick children.

Parents of this class would apply for medical assistance only when the innocent patients are in a moribund condition.

Only 60 deaths were medically certified, 47 by the Colonial Surgeon's returns, and 13 by the coroner's inquisition.

The following causes of deaths, were registered:—accident, 1; alcoholism, 1; apoplexy, 1; asthenia, 2; asthma, 7; bilious and hæmaturic fever, 1; bowel complaints, 49; bronchitis, 8; burns, 2; cancer, 1; cardiac diseases, 5; cerebral diseases, 2; chest affections, 75; child-births, 8; consumption, 5; convulsions, 45; debility, 3; diarrhœa, 8; dropsy, 65; drowning, 3; dysentery, 2; elephantiasis, 1; epileptic fits, 3; exhaustion, 2; fevers, malarial and remittent, 76; gun-shot wound, 1; liver complaint, 1; marasmus, 1; measles, 12; meningitis, 2; murder, 1; paralysis, 2; phthisis pulmonalis, 1; piles, 1; puerperal convulsions, 1; pyæmie, 4; renal disease, 1; rheumatism, 3; scrofula, 4; senile decay, 20; still-births, 33; syncope, 9; stricture syphilis, 1; teething, 1; tetanus, 3; ulcers, 7; uræmia, 1; venereal disease, 1; undefined causes, 160.

Marriages.

There were 25 marriages solemnised in the Colony during the period under review, as against 18 in the preceding year. 10 were solemnised in the Anglican Church, 6 in the Roman Catholic Church, and 9 by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society. 8 marriages were by license.

Aliens.

There were 263 aliens on the register on the 31st of December.

I inspected all the alien children in Bathurst on the 15th July, and, generally speaking, they appeared to be well cared for.

In some few cases I questioned the manner in which the guardians were performing their duties, and four prosecutions took place, resulting in heavy fines being inflicted.

The treatment of these aliens requires careful watching, and I have instructed the registrar to hold a quarterly inspection of all of them, and I shall be present at one of these inspections in each year.

The system is open to abuse, but, as far as I can see, it is one that has many advantages in civilising and educating numbers who would otherwise be entirely neglected by their parents in remote districts, and if a strict supervision is kept by the registrar

GAMBIA.

to see that the guardians carry out their obligations I do not believe it would be advisable to abolish it entirely.

Education.

I am afraid that education in the Gambia is not advancing as rapidly as could be desired.

The Mahommedans up to the present time seems to fear that education means interference with their religion, and especially to object to their girls attending any school. Efforts are still being made to induce them to be more considerate in this matter, but it is a very difficult matter.

According to the report of the Inspector, the number of schools has been sadly reduced during the last decade.

I attach a comparative table showing the number of scholars on the books, and the amounts earned by each denomination during the last five years, and end this not very hopeful subject by quoting the last paragraph of the Inspector's report, dated the 19th of August 1891.

"I have now the honour to bring this short report to a close. I must say that, according to my view of the situation, there has not been too much done for over 60 years Missionary School work in this Colony. I can only express a hope that any future improvement may be in the direction of the useful and not the theoretical."

Year.	Number of Children on Books.			Amounts earned.		
	Roman Catholics.	Anglicans.	Wesleyans.	Roman Catholics.	Anglicans.	Wesleyans.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1887 - - -	Boys, 200 Girls, 162	—	484	168 12 7½	—	73 8 6
1888 - - -	Boys, 200 Girls, 162	235	528	111 6 4	23 15 0	50 17 7½
1889 - - -	Boys, 200 Girls, 162	237	463	111 6 4	48 14 0	64 8 6
1890 - - -	Boys, 127 Girls, 142	240	415	135 14 0	78 7 0	60 14 6
1891 - - -	Boys, 127 Girls, 142	274	433	151 4 6	76 17 6	48 5 0

Imports and Exports.

The following comparative tables are interesting, and show that the amount of import duty collected in 1891 was within 150*l.* of the sum collected in 1890, but that in 1891 the duty realised from spirits, gunpowder, and tobacco, was respectively about 25 per-cent., 10 per-cent., and 20 per-cent. lower.

Heads of Receipts.	Amount, 1890.	Amount, 1891.	Increase.	Decrease.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Breach loading guns and rifles.	16 0 0	10 0 0	—	6 0 0	
Other fire-arms -	665 4 0	668 8 0	3 4 0	—	
Malt liquor - -	177 16 11	259 0 0	81 3 1	—	
Gunpowder - -	393 2 6	350 8 1	—	42 14 5	
Claret - - -	745 7 3	852 8 0	107 0 9	—	
Other wines - -	55 11 1	67 2 8	11 11 7	—	
Spirit, unsweetened -	3,322 0 1	2,521 17 3	—	800 2 10	
Spirit, sweetened -	262 17 11	268 13 6	5 15 7	—	
Brandy - - -	46 13 3	79 14 8	33 1 5	—	
Sugar - - -	644 17 10	841 10 1	196 12 3	—	
Tobacco, unmanufactured.	4,914 12 2	3,999 12 0	—	915 0 2	
Tobacco, manufactured	101 9 5	138 11 0	37 1 7	—	
Kola nuts - -	2,965 17 8	3,611 18 9	646 1 1	—	
Kerosine - -	117 12 3	92 7 3	—	25 5 0	
Salt - - -	344 13 8	450 11 2	105 17 6	—	
Lard - - -	48 7 10	41 5 2	—	7 2 8	
Rice - - -	558 7 11	754 15 4	196 7 5	—	
Oils and turps -	338 2 10	452 11 2	114 8 4	—	
Ad valorem - - -	3,358 17 1	3,469 19 1	111 2 0	—	
Total - -	19,077 11 8	18,930 13 2	1,649 6 7	1,796 5 1	

The quantities of the principal articles imported not consumed are given below in comparison with the importation of similar articles in 1890, and show a favourable increase in the value of cotton Goods.

Imports.

Articles.	1891.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods - -	39,593*l.*	37,225*l.*	2,368*l.*	—
Tobacco - - -	387,893 lbs.	215,039 lbs.	172,854	—
Kola nuts - - -	696,729 lbs.	601,319 lbs.	95,410 lbs.	—
Spirits of all kinds - -	43,771 galls.	43,323 galls.	448 galls.	—
Wines - - -	12,987 galls.	16,317 galls.	—	3,330 galls.
Sugar - - - -	239,610 lbs.	121,677 lbs.	117,933 lbs.	—
Salt - - -	1,342 tons	936 tons	406 tons	—
Fire-arms - -	4,989	3,849	1,140	—
Gunpowder - -	818 brls.	858 brls.	—	40 brls.
Rice - - - -	1,443 tons	823 tons	620 tons	—
Specie - - - -	27,058*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*	27,101*l.*	—	42*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

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The total value of the imports was 172,118*l.* and of the exports 180,051*l.*, and the revenue of the Colony was 31,000*l.* The highest figures that I can find in any previous years are in 1882–83 when the value of the imports was 217,000*l.*, of the exports 255,000*l.*, but the revenue was only 29,000*l.* and, therefore, in 1891 the revenue has been higher than in any previous year.

The comparative table of the principal exports shows that there was a trifling increase in the quantity of ground nuts shipped, but the most striking advance was in the export of rubber which in the last 3 years, 1889–91, has increased from 55,548lbs. to 246,690lbs.

Exports.

Articles.	1891.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts	19,702 tons Value, 142,933*l.*	18,262 tons Value, 129,817*l.*	1,440 tons Value, 13,116*l.*	—
Hides	1,642*l.*	1,093*l.*	549*l.*	—
Rubber	246,690 lbs. Value, 15,451*l.*	154,737*l.* 10,144*l.*	91,953 lbs. 5,307*l.*	—
Palm kernels	1,206 cwts.	3,131 tons	—	1,925 cwts.
Wax	1,808*l.*	1,744*l.*	64*l.*	—
Specie	8,885*l.*	9,886*l.*	—	1,001*l.*

Shipping.

The number of British steamers that entered and cleared was 72 against 36 French, although the greater part of the export trade is with France,

The total number of steamers that arrived and departed was 119 against 107 in the previous year.

Agriculture.

The cultivation of the land is carried on in the most primitive fashion. No capitalists own property or hire labour, and there is a great prejudice against the introduction of ploughs, or any change in the other rude implements used in farming. Rice and corn are the principal articles of food of the natives. A considerable quantity of both is grown, but not enough to satisfy the local demands, and the importation of rice amounts annually to over 1,000 tons.

Prisons.

The following table gives a comparison between 1891 and the two previous years in the statistical returns of the prison.

Year.	Total Number of Prisoners committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody or want of Bail.	Penal Punishment.	Daily Average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1889 - -	94	1	18	75	50	22	2	3
1890 - -	59		13	44	31	20	2	6
1891 - -	111	—	24	87	37	24	2	—

The numbers show an increase on the previous year in each column except in the deaths, of which there were none during the past year, a very unusual occurrence.

Improvements in the description and management of the prison were commenced in June when a change was made in the gaolor and the other officers of the prison.

In December an officer (Mr. Western) belonging to the Imperial Convict Service, arrived in the Colony for the purpose of instructing native warders in their duties and he is now engaged on his work.

It is proposed to enlarge the prison and improve the internal arrangements, and when these works are finished, I hope the prison will be as good as can be expected on the West Coast of Africa.

Criminal Statistics.

An apparent increase in the returns might lead one to suppose that crime had increased in the Colony. Such, however, is not the case, but is accounted for by the vigilance of the police under the supervision of Captain Hawtayne who arrived in the Colony in April and took command of the force.

A man murdered his reputed wife at the end of the year, and was executed in January of this year.

Hospitals.

The average number of patients were admitted and the usual number of deaths occurred, and there is nothing special to comment upon.

During the latter part of the year, a ward was given up to the military authorities for the reception of any sick soldiers in the West India Regiment now stationed here.

Alterations are now being carried on at the hospital which will improve the accommodation, and provide a few cells for the temporary reception of lunatics detained here, pending an opportunity of sending them to the Asylum at Sierra Leone.

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Meteorology.

In the following table is found a comparison of the rainfall for the last five years, together with statistics of the temperature, &c. during the last half of the year :—

COMPARATIVE RAIN-FALL IN THE COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
January - -	—	0·02	—	—	0·01
February - -	—	—	—	—	0·16
March - -	—	—	—	—	—
April - - -	—	—	—	—	—
May - -	0·23	—	—	0·04	0·53
June - - -	1·67	0·58	1·16	2·40	4·67
July - -	11·38	8·54	3·23	16·42	7·42
August - - -	19·82	13·47	15·57	19·90	18·84
September - -	13·70	9·71	10·65	16·58	19·81
October - -	7·16	6·7	1·45	4·97	1·97
November - -	—	—	—	—	—
December - -	—	—	—	—	—
	53·96	39·09	32·06	60·31	53·41

Average - - - 47.76

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS, BATHURST, GAMBIA.

1891. Month.	Average for months at 7 a.m.			Maximum in shade at 3 p.m.			Maximum in shade 7 a.m.			Total Rainfall in inches.
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew-point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	
	°	°	°	°	°		°	°	°	°
July - -	87·8	76·2	74·5	92	82	86·7	78	68	73·4	7·42
August - - -	76·8	75·4	74·2	88	75	83·7	75	70	72·7	18·84
September - -	77·3	75·1	73·6	90	80	85·9	75	69	72·3	19·81
October - -	77·5	75·4	73·5	90	83	87·4	77	69	73·1	1·97
November - -	73·4	67·8	63·8	90	80	84·4	74	64	68·8	—
December - -	69·8	63·3	58·4	92	80	84·7	68	62	65·7	—

The rainfall was a fair one and fell at convenient dates for benefiting agriculture, so that the crops of rice, ground nuts, and corn were good.

It will be observed that, practically, there is never any rain from the 1st November until June in the following year, a period of seven months' drought.

Savings Bank.

The amount at the credit of the depositors in the savings bank increased from 879*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* to 1,049*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, but the depositors fell from 84 to 79.

There are several friendly societies which give relief and assistance to members in cases of sickness, and there is some good done by all.

Government House.

The old office in the Government House has been converted into a billiard room, with a spare bedroom above it, and is a great improvement. The building is pretentious looking, but is not strongly built, and the ravages of insects with the trying climate tell upon the structure and the furniture, which latter will not last long, especially those articles that are upholstered.

The ground round Government House has been planted with trees, and they have grown fairly well, but as the place is a sheet of water which cannot be quickly drained off in the rainy season, and a bank of sand in the dry season, it is hardly to be expected that a garden in the general acceptation of the word can flourish.

The small house at Cape St. Mary contains three rooms. It is in fair order and furnished with chairs, tables, and bedsteads.

I do not think this place in the rainy season is any healthier than Bathurst, as the wind at that season does not blow from the sea, but over the swamps between Bathurst and Cape St. Mary.

Formerly the principal merchants kept up houses out there, but as they have allowed them to fall almost to ruin, I think it may be assumed that the advantages of the Cape as a residence in the rainy season, are not now considered to be so very superior to Bathurst, but in the dry season the air is a trifle cooler and fresher direct from the sea.

General Remarks.

Between the months of January and June, the officers (Captain A. H. Kenney, R.E. and Captain Pineau and M. Le Comte) engaged in the Anglo-French Boundary Commission, were busy on their work, which was most satisfactorily completed in the latter month, though at one time two of the powerful Chiefs Fodey Selah and Fodey Cabba threatened to cause some opposition to the survey.

GAMBIA.

The latter Chief, however, made a treaty with the French Government, and promised to obey the orders of the French Government to suppress the slave trade, and to give up making raids on neighbouring territories.

Unfortunately, as was to be expected from his previous conduct, Fodey Cabba soon forgot these promises, and returned to the neighbourhood of the Vintang Creek in the month of August, and resumed his marauding slave-hunting habits in the British Protectorate.

Late in the year Her Majesty's Government decided to drive Fodey Cabba by force from the country now known to be within the British Protectorate, which he has so long devastated.

With the exception of the district infested by this troublesome Chief, the rest of the river was quiet, and consequently trade during the year has been very good, with a larger revenue than has ever before been collected in the Colony.

In the month of June His Excellency M. De Lamothe, Governor of Senegal, visited Bathurst in the gunboat "Brandon," which came to fetch from the Colony the French officers who had been engaged on the boundary survey.

In the month of May I visited Yarbutenda, about 245 miles up the river from Bathurst, and during the journey stayed at many places, including McCarthy's Island.

In December I visited several towns between Bathurst and Ballangar (100 miles), and went up the Saleraine and Suara Creeks on the north bank, where there are large towns.

The result of these visits convinces me that in the waterway of the Gambia there is a splendid opportunity for developing a much larger trade than has hitherto existed.

The settlement of the boundary line, which gives 10 kilometres on each bank of the river for 250 miles to the Colony, and in addition the whole of the navigable waters, about 40 miles, of the Vintang Creek, is an immense advantage which with the expulsion of the marauding Chief Fodey Cabba, and the establishment of peace, should ensure the advancement of the Colony in a degree almost hitherto unlooked for.

The country about the Gambia is so arid that the development of new agricultural industries is problematical, but the river as a trade route to the interior of Africa, with the port of Bathurst at its mouth, is undoubtedly a valuable possession with prospects of a great future.

31st March 1892. (Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN.

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No. 80.

GAMBIA.

[For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 41.]

Administrator LLEWELYN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Bathurst,
May 19, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1892 in duplicate, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

The Most Hon.
The Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1892.

The taxes and other sources of revenue remained unchanged and the revenue of the Colony reached the total of 30,977*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, being 60 pounds less than in the previous year, which showed a larger revenue than in any previous year, so that the satisfactory position attained in 1891 was maintained though not improved upon.

The expenditure amounted to 28,739*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, being 1,042*l.* more than in 1891, but of this the sum of 1,000 pounds was paid for acquiring the powder magazine from a private company, and practically the revenue and expenditure in 1892 were both within a few pounds of what they were in 1891.

The surplus assets of the Colony amount to 19,427*l.*, which is invested in Government securities in England.

The finances of the Colony must thus be considered to be in a flourishing condition.

Public Works.

The most important work commenced during the year was the erection of an iron bridge over Jeshwang Creek, about 5½ miles from Bathurst, to replace a wooden bridge. This has been long wanted and applied for by the inhabitants, but more pressing

demands on the finances compelled the postponement of the work. It is now completed and is a great improvement.

New drains were also commenced in Primet Street, Bathurst, and have now been completed. This work has also been under consideration for many years and I am glad that the finances of the Colony have enabled me to carry them out at last without trenching on the surplus funds.

A liberal expenditure on public works recurrent is gradually bringing all the public institutions into good repair, which is satisfactory, as many buildings required attention which want of revenue in the past had prevented.

Legislation.

The most important Ordinances were those passed as the outcome of the Brussels Conference Act, relating to the storage and disposal of firearms and ammunition in the Colony.

By one of the provisions of the Brussels Act the Government had to provide a magazine in which all powder should be stored, and as the magazine here belonged to a private company the Government had to acquire it by purchase and this was arranged by Ordinance No. 3.

Ordinance No. 4 embodied the provisions of the Brussels Act, and Ordinance No. 7 regulated the sale in the Colony of such arms and ammunition as may be sold, and I believe every effort has been made in this Colony to faithfully carry out the obligations of the Act.

Ordinance No. 6 restricts the loading and unloading of cargo on Sunday and is nearly a transcript of the Hong Kong Ordinance.

As far as I can see it has not worked any great hardship on any owners of vessels and it gives the Clerks a chance of a day of rest.

A Proclamation was issued in January, when active operations were being conducted against the marauding Chief, Fodey Kabba, prohibiting the sale of arms and ammunition anywhere within the Colony.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. R. B. Llewelyn, C.M.G., was absent on leave from the 20th of June to the 26th of November, during which time the duties of Administrator were performed by Mr. C. H. H. Moseley, the Treasurer.

The usual leave of absence was granted to Mr. Lee, Collector of Customs, Captain Hawtayne, Superintendent of Police, and the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Finucane, who four months after his return from leave was invalided home and remains absent.

The Colonial Surgeon went on leave on account of ill-health in August, and died in London on the 25th September.

Pensions.

Dr. Robertson, formerly Colonial Secretary and Treasurer of this Colony, died in England towards the end of the year, and also Dr. Percival Kirton. These deaths reduced the vote for pensions by 552*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Population and Vital Statistics.

These statistics are not satisfactory. They only pretend to deal with the town of Bathurst, British Combo, The Ceded Mile and M'Carthy Island, and no information is available about the population in the territory stretching on both banks of the river for 250 miles.

The population is a shifting one. Between November and June Bathurst is denuded of a large number of persons who go up the river to trade, and the figures given by a census taken in the month of April, when Bathurst is abnormally empty, do not represent what should fairly be considered as the real number of inhabitants of the town.

The number of births registered during the year was 391 and of deaths 638, including still births. These figures would signify that the population of the Colony is rapidly decreasing, but I do not believe that is the fact. Difficulties in the way of burial force the natives to record deaths, but the occasion of a birth is easily passed over and soon forgotten, and the natives do not understand the law.

Only one European died in the Colony from malarial fever during the year, and the following were the registered causes of deaths amongst the natives :—Alcoholism 3, apoplexy 1, asthma 4, Bright's disease of the kidneys 4, cardiac diseases 5, cerebral diseases 2, child birth 1, consumption 3, convulsions 14, cow pox 1, debility 3, diarrhœa 31, diseases of the respiratory organs 85, dropsy 19, drowning 5, dysentery 1, epilepsy 3, exhaustion 4, fevers 45, gun-shot wound 1, marasmus 1, measles 3, meningitis 1, mumps 10, paralysis 4, peritonitis 1, piles 1, pleurisy 5, pneumonia 22, poison 1, scrofula 3, starvation and exposure 2, senile decay 10, still births 35, teething 1, tetanus 1, tooth ache 1, ulcers 4, unascertained or ill defined 286.

There were 24 marriages solemnized in the three churches in Bathurst, as against 25 in the preceding year.

Alien Children.

Only 17 alien children were registered during the year, and the total number left on the rolls on the 31st December was 172 of whom 121 were professed Christians and 51 Mahommedans.

Education.

The report of the Inspector showed more favourable results, and the grants earned were 48*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* larger than in 1892.

GAMBIA. 1892.

The following comparative tables show the exact position, and I regret to state there is very little active interest taken in this important subject by anyone in the Colony.

Year.	Number of Children on Books.			Amounts earned.		
	Roman Catholics.	Anglicans.	Wesleyans.	Roman Catholics.	Anglicans.	Wesleyans.
1888	Boys, 200 Girls, 162	235	528	£ 111 s. 6 d. 4	£ 23 s. 15 d. 0	£ 50 s. 17 d. 7½
1889	Boys, 200 Girls, 162	237	463	111 6 4	48 14 0	64 8 6
1890	Boys, 127 Girls, 142	240	415	135 14 0	78 7 0	60 14 6
1891	Boys, 127 Girls, 142	274	433	151 4 6	76 17 6	48 5 0
1892	Boys, 130 Girls, 137	250	344	156 18 0	83 5 0	84 9 0

Imports and Exports.

The import duties yielded 260*l.* more than in 1892, and the export duty on ground nuts 560*l.*, giving an increase of 820*l.* in the total customs receipts.

The principal differences in detail being an increase in the import duties of 726*l.* for Kola nuts, against a decrease of 285*l.* in the *ad valorem* duties, and 225*l.* for gunpowder. The receipts for spirits duties were 20*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, and on guns and pistols 16*l.* 16*s.* more than in 1892.

The comparative tables given below show further details:—

Imports.

Heads of Receipts.	Amount, 1891.	Amount, 1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ad valorem duty	£ 3,469 s. 19 d. 1	£ 3,184 s. 11 d. 8	£ s. d. —	£ 285 s. 7 d. 5
Import duty on wine	919 10 8	916 19 2	—	2 11 6
Spirits	2,870 5 5	2,891 3 8	20 18 3	—
Malt liquor	259 0 0	312 0 0	53 0 0	—
Tobacco	4,138 3 0	4,027 8 5	—	110 14 7
Oil, turps, &c.	493 16 4	549 12 7	55 16 3	—
Sugar	841 10 1	905 15 10	64 5 9	—
Cola nuts	3,611 18 9	4,338 8 5	726 9 8	—
Rice	754 15 4	675 17 3	—	78 18 1
Guns and Pistols	678 8 0	695 4 0	16 16 0	—
Powder	350 8 1	120 8 6	—	229 19 7
Salt	450 11 2	347 13 10	—	102 17 4
Kerosine oil	92 7 3	124 14 8	32 7 5	—

Exports.

Articles.	1891.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts	19,702 tons Value, 142,933*l.*	21,281 tons Value, 150,206*l.*	1,579 tons Value, 7,273*l.*	—
Hides	1,642*l.*	1,721*l.*	79*l.*	—
Rubber	246,690 lbs. Value, 15,451*l.*	51,614 lbs. Value 2,920*l.*	— —	195,076 lbs., 12,531*l.*
Palm kernels	1,206 cwts.	1,390 cwts.	184 cwts.	—
Wax	1,808*l.*	2,267*l.*	459*l.*	—
Specie	8,885*l.*	6,724*l.*	—	2,161*l.*

The total value of the imports amounted to 169,973*l.*, and of the exports to 172,197*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, which figures are a trifle lower than in the preceding year.

Nearly half the imports came from the United Kingdom, but only one-fifth of the exports went there.

The returns have been prepared in accordance with the suggestions, dated 23rd June 1891, of the committee appointed to inquire into the compilation of the import and export statistics.

Shipping.

Sixty British steamers and three British sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year, and forty-one foreign steamers and forty-two foreign sailing vessels, many of the last small vessels from Senegal, arrived and departed.

The number of steamers shows a decrease, but the tonnage increased.

Prisons.

Great improvement has been effected in the discipline of the prison since it has been placed under the supervision of an Inspector, and also since the visit of Mr. Western from the Imperial Convict Service, who instructed the gaoler and warders in their duties for six months.

The great difficulty here, as elsewhere, is in securing the services of reliable warders.

The following comparative table shows that the average number of prisoners confined is considerably lower than in the two previous years:—

Year.	Total Number of Prisoners committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody or want of Bail.	Penal Punishment.	Daily Average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1890	59	—	13	44	31	20	2	6
1891	111	—	24	87	37	24	2	—
1892	140	3	30	107	26	77	2	2

GAMBIA. 1892.

The question of building a new gaol is now under consideration.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences, apprehensions, and convictions was nearly the same as in the previous year, but there was a decrease from 40 to 24 in the number of convictions for offences against the person, and there was no serious crime of any sort.

Hospitals.

The hospital had left in it at the beginning of the year 12 patients, and the daily average number of inmates during the year was 12.

A new kitchen, detached from the building, but connected with it by a covered way, was built during the year and gives additional office and dispensing accommodation, with a room for the reception of outdoor patients, inside the main building where the old kitchen was.

In the early part of the year the natives especially suffered considerably from a species of influenza, but on the whole the year was a healthy one.

Meteorology.

I give below the meteorological returns for this year.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS, BATHURST, GAMBIA, 1892.

1892. Month.	Average for month at 7 a.m.			Maximum in shade at 3 p.m.			Minimum in shade at 7 a.m.			Total Rainfall in inches.
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	
January	68·9	62·1	56·9	93	78	85·	75	59	64·2	Nil.
*February	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	„
*March	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	„
April	71·1	65·1	60·6	97	77	86·6	73	62	68·6	0·01
May	71·5	68·4	66·1	94	76	85·9	75	66	70·2	1·38
June	77·8	75·1	75·2	93	82	86·	78	69	74·8	3·05
July	77·7	75·3	73·7	87	78	84·5	77	73	74·7	14·89
August	77·1	75·2	73·9	88	79	84·1	77	70	73·7	22·65
September	78·	76·5	75·4	90	77	85·	79	71	75·1	4·76
October	78·	75·5	73·8	89	83	86·5	78	72	74·9	4·39
November	74·2	68·	63·4	94	80	87·8	77	67	71·8	Nil.
December	69·	64·3	60·6	90	77	83·8	73	62	66·7	„
										51·13

* Records imperfectly kept.

1st February, 1893.

The rainfall was a little above the average of the last few years, but 50 inches may be taken as a fair rainfall.

Savings Bank.

The amount of deposits remaining at the end of the year was 1,013*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, being about 35*l.* less than was left at the end of 1891, but the number of depositors nearly doubled, having risen from 79 to 155.

There are between 25 and 30 Friendly Societies in the Colony one of which has 99*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.* invested.

Government House.

The building is now in fair order, nearly all the rooms have been re-floored and re-painted and it may be considered to be in better condition than it has been for many years.

General Remarks.

On the 1st of January an expedition, consisting of a Naval Brigade formed from Her Majesty's ships on this station, with a detachment of the West India Regiment, attacked the notorious marauder, Fodey Kabba, and drove him across the Anglo-French boundary line. These operations were somewhat prolonged as his influence extended far wider than was generally supposed, and it was not until the destruction of the strongly fortified town of Toniataba on the 27th April that the operations were finally closed. Her Majesty subsequently graciously signified her pleasure that a medal should be granted for these operations to the officers of Her Majesty's Army and Navy and Colonial Forces that took part in them. The inclusion of the latter gave great satisfaction in the Colony, and about thirty medals were distributed here in March in this year.

It will take many many years to instil into the minds of the inhabitants, who are nearly all Mahommedans, that slavery in any form is a detestable practice, but every effort is now being made to check the introduction of slaves from the interior of Africa beyond the British Protectorate, and I think the inhabitants on the banks of the Gambia are beginning to realise that the English Government will not sanction the keeping of slaves under any condition, but with a large Protectorate, extending for 250 miles up the river, the work must necessarily be slow and difficult.

Slave hunting is, I hope, stopped within the Protectorate, but the introduction of slaves from elsewhere, with a frontier of 600 miles for the Government to watch, will continue as long as there are people ready to purchase them.

The presence of the Travelling Commissioners who arrived here in January is letting the slaves know they can be freed within our Protectorate, and as this is gradually understood and acted upon it will deter the inhabitants from running the risk of purchasing slaves who may be freed at any moment, and by this means it is

GAMBIA. 1892.

to be hoped the practice will gradually, but I am sure very slowly, die out.

Early in the year a disease appeared amongst the cattle and destroyed all (thousands) for hundreds of miles round here. It will take years for the Colony to recover from this terrible epidemic, and beef is now very difficult to get in the market.

18th May 1893. (Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN, Administrator.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 80.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
26 *June* 1894.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
69	Victoria	1891
70	Rodrigues	〃
71	Bermuda	1892
72	Fiji	1891
73	British Honduras	〃
74	Turks and Caicos Islands	1892
75	Gibraltar	〃
76	Bahamas	〃
77	Leeward Islands	〃
78	Trinidad and Tobago	〃
79	Malta	〃
80	Gambia	〃
81	Straits Settlements	〃
82	Grenada	〃
83	Barbados	〃
84	St. Vincent	〃
85	Hong Kong	〃
86	St. Lucia	〃
87	Falkland Islands	〃
88	Gold Coast	〃
89	Basutoland	〃
90	Ceylon	1892–93
91	Zululand	1892
92	Mauritius	〃
93	Labuan	〃
94	British Honduras	〃
95	Lagos	〃
96	Sierra Leone	〃
97	Fiji	〃
98	Rodrigues	〃
99	St. Helena	〃
100	British Bechuanaland	〃
101	British Guiana	1892–93
102	Jamaica	〃
103	Newfoundland	〃
104	Victoria	1892
105	Bermuda	〃
		1893

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 106.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 80.)

Administrator LLEWELYN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
April 16, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1893, together with my report on the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1893.

The Revenue reached the largest total, I believe, on record of 31,898*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure amounted to 38,143*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, which includes the sum of 9,500*l.* on a new Wharf, so the ordinary expenditure of the Colony was about 28,000*l.*, the same as it has been for the last three years.

The surplus assets on the 31st December were 13,915*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, invested in various Government securities in England.

Briefly there is no sign of any great elasticity in the financial prosperity of the Colony, but it is holding its own and should, if anything, advance, though but slowly.

Public Works.

The principal new work was the erection of a Powder Magazine, inside the walls of what was formerly the Coal Depôt at Half-Die.

The plan for this building was furnished by the War Department and it is therefore of excellent design.

Four new Iron Buoys with moorings complete, were purchased at a cost of 600*l.* and have replaced the old ones at the entrance of the river.

An expenditure of 3,232*l.* on ordinary current repairs, &c. has helped to keep the Public Buildings in good order.

GAMBIA. 1893.

Legislation.

Eight Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important being one "To provide for the granting of Annual Trade "Licences to persons intending to trade in certain territories "and towns within the boundaries delimited by the Anglo-French "Boundary Commission of 1891." Formerly the Chiefs and Alcaides exacted from traders varying "Customs" as all such taxes were called, and many disputes arose in the collection of those Customs. Now all traders obtain a Licence at the Treasury in Bathurst, which they show to the Alcaides in the towns, and these are accepted by them as a proof of payment of Customs.

The licence is paid for in cash at the Treasury and is considerably lower than the amount the traders formerly paid in goods. It is intended to award the Alcaides a proportion, depending in some degree upon satisfactory performance of duties, not exceeding one-half of the amount derived from Licences taken out in their several Districts. The total sums realized from such Licences in the first season has amounted to over four hundred pounds.

Ordinances were passed abolishing all fees to the Collector of Customs and other officers in the Customs Department, and doing away with the payment of fees to the Postmaster and Clerks for Sunday work in the Post Office, the general principle being gradually adopted in all Departments of abolishing all fees and perquisites.

Proclamations were issued requiring all guns and firearms to be presented for the purpose of being marked, and appointing the new Government Powder Magazine at Half-Die as a place in which all powder imported shall be deposited. These steps were required in carrying out the provisions of the Brussels Act.

Civil Establishment.

The Honourable Harry Holme Lee, Collector of Customs, died on the 19th of August, and his office was not filled until after the end of the year.

Dr. Finucane, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, who was invalided from this Colony, was transferred to Fiji in May.

In the month of January, Commander R. Jukes Hughes (retired) arrived in the Colony as successor to Captain Hawtayne in the office of Superintendent of Police, but seven weeks after his arrival Captain Hughes was invalided and remained on leave until the middle of September.

Messrs. J. H. Ozanne and C. F. Sitwell arrived in January and assumed the duties of Travelling Commissioners in the Colony.

Dr. W. T. Prout, transferred from the Gold Coast, arrived on the 1st of April and took up his appointment as Colonial Surgeon.

Mr. W. Cuddeford was appointed Local Auditor in September, in conjunction with the Colony of Sierra Leone.

The usual leave of absence was granted to the Treasurer, Mr. Moseley, and the Confidential Clerk, Mr. Gace, and the Administrator was invalided to England for seventy days from the 10th of July.

Pensions.

Mr. T. W. Jackson, formerly Chief Magistrate, who was in receipt of a pension of 150*l.* per annum, died on the 3rd of July, and as there have been no additions to the Pension List for two years, the vote is now only 744*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* as against 1,380*l.* at the end of 1891.

Foreign Consuls.

Mr. Charles Julius Mann was recognised as Vice-Consul for Portugal on the 29th September.

Population and Vital Statistics.

The following is the Report of the Registrar on the Vital Statistics of the Colony:

Births.

The births registered in the Colony during the year 1893 numbered 332 as against 391 in the year 1892, and corresponded to an annual rate of 23·2 per 1,000 of the aggregate population.

In Bathurst	216	Births were recorded.
„ British Combo	35	„ „ „
„ Ceded Mile	58	„ „ „
„ Macarthy's Island	23	„ „ „
	332	

The sex-proportion of infants born shows an excess of males, there being 170 males to 162 females.

Other dependencies of the Colony, such as Bai and Kansala, furnished no returns.

Of the 332 births, 328 were black, and four hybrid. Thirty were legitimate, or 9·0 per cent. of the total births, not including the births registered by Mohammedans, who are validly married according to their tenets. There is no doubt that a not inconsiderable number of births escaped registration.

Deaths.

The mortality recorded during the period under review numbered 611 including still-births, and corresponded to an annual rate of 42·8 per 1,000 of the aggregate population.

GAMBIA. 1893.

The deaths registered in the following districts corresponded to the following annual rates per 1,000 of their respective populations.

Bathurst	45·4
Ceded Mile	38·9
British Combo	69·8
McCarthy's Island	49·0

The computation makes no allowance for increase or decrease of population, but is based upon the figures of the recent decennial census. Infant mortality was exceptionally high, 190 infants having succumbed to various ailments during the year, convulsions, consequent upon dentition, and diseases of the respiratory organs being the most fatal.

The months of January, February, and August were markedly fatal to infant life.

Three Europeans died within the same period, one from malarial fever, another from pneumonia, and the third from heat stroke and syphilis.

The following are the registered causes of death:—

Abscess	1	Debility	3
Anasarca	2	Diarrhœa	3
Chronic alcoholism	1	Diseases of the lungs	26
Phthisis	2	Diseases of the heart	9
Anæmia	1	Dropsy	56
Asthma	1	Dysentery	5
Boils	1	Elephantiasis	1
Bowel complaints	59	Exhaustion	1
Bronchitis	2	Small-pox	16
Burns	2	Senile decay	8
Bursting of a blood vessel	1	Still birth	26
Cerebral apoplexy	1	Suicide	2
Chest affection	59	Syncope	1
Child birth	5	Syphilis	1
Fevers	48	Teething	3
Fistula	1	Murder	1
Killed by alligator	1	Piles	2
Leprosy	2	Pleurisy	1
Liver complaint	3	Pneumonia	4
Meningitis	1	Rheumatism	6
Mumps	39	Tetanus	2
Consumption	6	Ulcers	6
Convulsions	27	Unascertained or ill defined	158

Marriages.

There were 30 marriages solemnized during the year as against 24 in the preceding year, viz.; 8 in the Anglican Church, 4 in the

Roman Catholic Church, and 18 by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

Alien Children

The number of aliens registered during the year was 17, of the following nationalities, Mandingoes 9 Bambaras 2, Jolahs 3, Tillibunka 1, Turanka 1, Foulah 1. Two aliens died and fifty-seven obtained their discharge. By permission of the Administrator six aliens were removed temporarily from the Colony, three of whom have returned, and three are still absent.

In April the Legislature passed the "Registration of Alien African Children further Amendment Ordinance, 1893," which, by Section 4, reduces the age limit for the deter mination of apprenticeship to 15 years in the case of girls, and 16 years in the case of boys. The Ordinance further makes it compulsory upon all guardians having the legitimate control of any registered alien child to send him or her to a school which is either supported by the Government, or is entitled to receive aid from the public funds of the Colony. By Section V. of the said Ordinance every schoolmaster is required to transmit to the Registrar monthly a certificate of the attendance of every alien child in his school upon pain of the penalty set forth in the same section. In consequence of these salutary provisions guardians are now more alive than hitherto to their responsibility towards their apprentices who, as never before, attend school more regularly, and the aliens who are under the custody of Mohammedan guardians are now attending one or the other of the denominational Christian schools in Bathurst, where they are taught the rudiments of an English education with most beneficial results.

The number of alien children on the roll at the beginning of the year was 172, and on the 31st December 132, 17 names having been added in the course of the year, and 57 deleted. The number of aliens introduced into the Colony for registration has markedly declined within the last few years, and since 1889 there has been a constant yearly decrease, as the subjoined comparative summary will show.

Year.	No. of Aliens on the Roll.	Introduced into the Colony.	Struck off the roll.
1889 - - - -	551	21	121
1890 - - - -	409	7	24
1891 - - - -	378	5	110
1892 - - -	263	22	69
1893 - - - -	172	17	57

The probable explanation of this gradual decrease is the stringent restrictions with regard to the removal of aliens from Bathurst. Another reason may be that aliens of Jolah nationality, who make the best apprentices, are no longer obtainable to the same extent as formerly.

The above figures do not take into account the adult aliens brought into the Colony through the agencies of the Travelling Commissioners in 1893, the number of which was 100.

Education.

Owing to the prevalence of cholera in Senegal during the last half of the year the schools in the Gambia could not be examined by the Inspector, who resides in Sierra Leone, as it was feared by the Government of that Colony that cholera might appear here and that the Inspector would not then be able to get back, so he was not allowed to leave, a rather unnecessary precaution, and as it turns out, entirely so.

The schools were therefore awarded the same grants as in the previous year and I am not able to refer to any examination report.

Imports and Exports.

The most noticeable difference in the subjoined comparative returns of Import Duties is the decline in the importation of guns and powder owing to the efforts made to carry out the obligations of the Brussels Conference Act.

Prior to 1892 the average quantity of gunpowder imported was between 800 and 900 barrels annually. Last year less than 200 barrels were consumed in the Colony, but 324 barrels were transhipped for ports in Senegal. The import duty on guns and pistols fell from 695*l.* in 1892 to 52*l.* in 1893, which is, I think, a significant fact that the Brussels Act is not treated as a dead letter in this Colony.

There was a large decrease in the duty on Kola nuts, I believe attributable to some scarceness of the article and rise in price in Sierra Leone owing to the ravages of the locusts. These insects also visited the Gambia and destroyed large quantities of rice and corn here, which accounts for the increase of the amount of import duty collected on rice and food supplies.

The ground nuts exported produced 1,071*l.* more than was estimated and the crop was one of the largest on record.

The total value of the imports amounted to 166,509*l.*, which includes 20,393*l.* in specie, but 6,676*l.* in specie was exported, and the total value of the exports was 239,720*l.*

The comparative tables show the variations in the quantities and value of the principal articles imported and exported during the years 1892 and 1893.

Imports.

Heads of Receipts.	Amount, 1892.	Amount, 1893.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ad valorem duty	3,184 11 8	3,444 9 9	259 18 1	—
Import duty on wine	916 19 2	923 18 3	6 19 1	—
Spirits	2,891 3 8	3,402 6 4	511 2 8	—
Malt liquor	312 0 0	244 19 10	—	67 0 2
Tobacco	4,027 8 5	3,858 3 11	—	169 4 6
Oil, turps, &c.	549 12 7	658 6 4	108 13 9	—
Sugar	905 15 10	1,180 6 5	274 10 7	—
Kola nuts	4,338 8 5	3,576 9 5	—	761 19 0
Rice	675 17 3	1,012 6 10	336 9 7	—
Guns and Pistols	695 4 0	52 0 0	—	643 4 0
Powder	120 8 6	98 9 9	—	21 18 9
Salt	347 13 10	293 11 9	—	54 2 1
Kerosine oil	124 14 8	130 9 11	5 15 3	—

Exports.

Articles.	1892.	1893.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts	21,282 tons. Value, 150,207*l.*	25,218 tons. Value, 172,765*l.*	3,936 tons 22,550*l.*	—
Hides	18,158 lbs. Value 1,721*l.*	18,298 lbs. Value 1,515*l.*	140*l.* —	206*l.*
Rubber	51,614 lbs. Value, 2,920*l.*	45,298 lbs. Value 2,619*l.*	— —	6,316 lbs. 301*l.*
Palm kernels	1,390 cwts. Value, 1,176*l.*	4,868 cwts. Value 1,722*l.*	3,478 cwts. 546*l.*	—
Wax	73,580 lbs. Value, 2,267*l.*	57,452 lbs. Value 2,142*l.*	— —	16,128 lbs. 125*l.*
Specie	8,885*l.*	6,676*l.*	—	2,189*l.*

A cargo of mahogany, cut about 25 miles up the river, was sent to England in November, but I am informed that, although the logs were large and good, the price realized was not encouraging.

Shipping.

There was only one large English sailing vessel in the Colony during the year, but 104 steamers entered and cleared, of which 67 were English, 32 French, 4 German and 1 Dutch.

Prison.

The number of prisoners was considerably below the average of the past years, and at present the separate cells, numbering 19, are sufficient to provide separate accommodation for the average number of prisoners.

The prison in general meets the requirements of the Colony and on the whole it is well conducted for a small prison in a small Colony.

The comparative table given below supplies further details:—

Year.	Total Number of Prisoners committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody or want of Bail.	Penal Punishment.	Daily Average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1891 - -	111	—	24	87	37	24	2	—
1892 - -	140	3	30	107	26	77	2	2
1893 - -	85	1	12	72	20	55	2	4

Criminal Statistics.

The number of convictions in 1893 was 154, a decrease of 47 on the previous year, and in examining the details of these convictions it appears that drunkenness decreased last year, and that the other offences were all of the ordinary type.

Three cases of slave-dealing were tried but all failed in getting convictions. Offences against the Public Health Ordinance, and for committing nuisance in the town of Bathurst, show increased vigilance on the part of the Inspector of Nuisances and Police in Bathurst, which cannot have failed to do good.

Hospitals.

The daily average number of patients in the Hospital was within a fraction the same as last year, viz., eight males and four females.

The number of cases treated was 267 against 354 in the previous year, and the deaths were 20 in 1893 and 27 in 1892.

There were fewer cases of malarial fever and no deaths, and on the whole I should say the year was a healthier one.

The Hospital is in good order in every way and is about to be improved by the erection of a building as a store with cells for the temporary confinement of lunatics pending their removal to Sierra Leone.

Meteorological.

The meteorological and weather conditions in general were phenomenal during the year 1893.

A total eclipse of the sun, visible in the Gambia for nearly three minutes, occurred on the 16th of April. Heavier rains fell earlier in May than usual, and the rainfall of the whole season was 52 per cent. more than the average of the last five years.

A very heavy fall of ten inches on the 17th August flooded all the low lying parts of Bathurst, and phenomenal rains, especially in the upper river in December, damaged seriously the crops of ground nuts which had just been pulled.

The total rainfall at Bathurst was 77·89 and at McCarthy's Island 55·39 inches.

COMPARATIVE RAINFALL, COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

——	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
January - -	—	—	·01	—	·02
February - -	—	—	·16	—	—
March - -	—	—	—	—	—
April - - -	—	—	—	·01	·40
May - - -	—	·04	·53	1·38	2·16
June - - -	1·16	2·40	4·67	3·05	3·29
July - - -	3·23	16·42	7·42	14·89	20·57
August - -	5·57	19·90	18·84	22·65	30·57
September - -	10·65	16·58	19·81	4·76	13·00
October - -	1·45	4·97	1·97	4·39	7·33
November - -	—	—	—	—	·15
December - -	—	—	—	—	·40
	32·06	60·31	53·41	51·13	77·89

Average, 54·96.

W. T. PROUT,—Colonial Surgeon.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1893.

1893. Months.	Average for month at 7 a.m.			Maximum in shade at 3 p.m.			Minimum in shade at 7 a.m.			Rainfall in inches.		
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Total.	Maximum.	Date.
January	69·8	64·3	60·07	96°	75°	83·1	73°	61°	67·9	·02	·02	5-1-93
February	67·5	58·8	51·84	92°	75°	86·5	69°	63°	64·8	—	—	—
March	68·8	64·8	61·68	94°	75°	80·8	69°	61°	65·8	—	—	—
April	69·7	65·6	62·4	88°	76°	76·2	70·5	63°	66·7	0·40	0·40	23-1-93
May	75·6	70·5	66·8	94°	77·5	84·4	75·5	68°	71·2	2·16	1·80	28-5-93
June	81·2	5·3	71·2	98·5	83·5	87·5	78°	71°	74·9	3·29	1·36	11-6-93
July	73·3	72·7	72·2	89°	79°	84·4	78°	72°	74·4	20·57	2·34	8-7-93
August	77·7	75·3	73·6	89·5	79°	84·4	77·5	70°	73·9	30·57	10·15	17-8-93
September	77·5	75·6	74·2	89°	78°	85·2	78°	72°	74·6	13·00	2·91	2-9-93
October	77°	75·4	74·28	88·5	80·5	84·9	79°	71·5	74·1	7·33	4·66	3-10-93
November	74·9	70·1	66·5	94°	83·5	87·5	77°	62°	72·3	·15	·15	1-11-93
December	67·7	61·6	56·72	92°	68°	83·1	69·5	58°	62·4	·40	·36	21-12-93

Total rainfall for 1893—77·89 inches.

W T. PROUT, M.B.—Colonial Surgeon.

Savings Bank.

The number of accounts remaining open at the end of the year increased from 89 at the beginning of the year to 103 at the end, and the balance due to depositors rose from 989*l.* to 1,594*l.*, which is a substantial improvement. Twenty-seven Friendly Societies have over 600*l.* to the credit of sundry members, but very little of this is deposited in the savings bank, and I do not know if much of it is invested anywhere.

General Remarks.

The year 1893 was a prosperous one as far as the public revenues were concerned, but I fear many of the inhabitants in the Colony and Protectorate suffered considerably from the loss of their food crops owing to the continued presence, in different degrees, of locusts.

These insects first appeared in large quantities in the beginning of February and have hovered more or less in and about the Colony ever since. I am informed that locusts have never remained so long on any previous visitation, and if they continue to stop here some steps will have to be taken systematically to destroy them.

From June until the end of the year cholera was prevalent in Senegal, within 100 miles of Bathurst, but, most fortunately, the Colony escaped. The strict Quarantine Regulations imposed could not but fail to disturb trade, but I hope they helped to keep the Colony free of this scourge.

In December a phenomenal rain occurred which damaged the ground nuts that had been just gathered and were stacked in heaps in the fields without any covering.

It is somewhat remarkable that the loss of all the cattle by disease in 1892, the destruction of the food by locusts early in 1893, the phenomenal rain at the end of 1893, and the fear of an epidemic of cholera hanging over their heads for six months, does not seem to have disturbed the happiness of the people at all and they go on as placidly as if everything was proceeding most flourishingly and regularly.

I made a lengthy tour in the Protectorate in January and February and installed the newly appointed Travelling Commissioners in their offices.

Much valuable information has been gained about the geography of the country and the manners of the people by these officers, who live amongst them for eight months in the year, and I hope shortly to see, from the experience so gained, some system of jurisdiction established in the Protectorate which will be the first step towards the civilization of the country.

GAMBIA. 1893.

Peace amongst the natives existed everywhere on the banks of the River up as far as McCarthy's Island, beyond which the Commissioners have not travelled, and it is not proposed to attempt to press any active jurisdiction further until the country nearer the coast is thoroughly got under control.

16th April 1894. (Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN.

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No. 143.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 106.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
15 *August* 1895.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	1893
112	Leeward Islands	,,
113	Barbados	,,
114	Malta	,,
115	Zululand	,,
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117	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
118	Falkland Islands	,,
119	Rodrigues	,,
120	Mauritius	,,
121	Straits Settlements	,,
122	Labuan	,,
123	Basutoland	1893–94
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	,,
126	Ceylon	,,
127	Fiji	,,
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129	Sierra Leone	,,
130	British Bechuanaland	1893-94
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 143.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual], No. 106.)

Administrator LLEWELYN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Bathurst,
May 20, 1895.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship in duplicate Blue Book of the Colony of the Gambia for the year 1894, with my report thereon.

I have, &c.
R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1894.

An abnormal fall of rain, far heavier in the Upper river than at Bathurst, at the end of December 1893, ushered in an unfortunate year for the Colony of the Gambia, and that phenomenal occurrence affected not only the whole trade and prosperity of the people for the year 1894, but has mainly contributed to the present general depression in business.

2. The climate of the Gambia has often been described, so that perhaps the following comparative rainfall and other meteorological returns may not be considered of any general public interest, but that little fall of rain in December 1893, by damaging the staple product of the Colony, just after it had been pulled and before it was stored, has impeded progress in civilization and been felt in every hut throughout the Colony and Protectorate by reducing the revenue to 23,797*l.*, against an estimate of 31,000*l.*

COMPARATIVE RAINFALL, COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
January - -	—	·01	—	·02	—
February - -	—	·16	—	—	—
March - -	—	—	—	—	—
April - - -	—	—	·01	·40	·07
May - - -	·04	·53	1·38	2·16	—
June - - -	2·40	4·67	3·05	—	5·33
July - - -	16·42	7·42	14·89	20·57	16·54
August - -	19·90	18·84	22·65	30·57	18·64
September - -	16·58	19·81	4·76	13·00	13·35
October - -	4·97	1·97	4·39	7·33	1·29
November - -	—	—	—	·15	·64
December - -	—	—	—	·40	—
	60·31	53·41	51·13	77·89	55·86

Average, 59·72.

GILBERT ELLIOTT, Acting Colonial Surgeon.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1894.

1894. Months.	Average for month at 7 a.m.			Maximum in shade at 3 p.m.			Minimum in shade at 7 a.m.			Rainfall in inches.		
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Total.	Maximum.	Date.
January - -	66·2	58·8	51·5	90·5	73·	84·1	67·	56·	61·8	—	—	—
February - - -	65·7	58·8	51·8	94·	70·5	80·6	66·	63·	62·	—	—	—
March - - -	67·7	63·6	60·3	95·	73·	78·	70·	63·	65·3	—	—	—
April - - -	71·	65·3	60·9	101·	74·5	85·1	70·5	59·5	65·7	0·07	·07	23-4-94
May - - -	74·9	70·6	67·5	95·	76·5	84·7	73·	66·	69·9	—	—	—
June - - -	77·6	73·8	71·1	93·	80·	85·9	75·5	67·	72·5	5·33	3·09	6-6-94
July - - -	77·5	74·8	72·9	89·5	80·5	85·4	76·	67·	72·5	16·54	4·30	19-7-94
August - - -	76·9	74·5	72·8	86·	79·	83·7	76·	69·	72·	18·64	3·25	19-8-94
September - -	77·5	75·4	73·9	87·5	79·	84·9	77·	68·	72·6	13·35	2·17	4-9-94
October - - -	78·	75·4	73·60	91·5	82·	85·	78·	71·	74·	1·29	·76	4-10-94
November - -	74·7	69·3	65·4	90·	73·	84·1	77·	64·	70·7	0·64	·28	22-11-94
December - - -	65·2	59·7	67·6	90·	59·	72·6	70·	55·	63·5	—	—	—

Total rainfall for 1894—55·86 inches.

GILBERT ELLIOTT.—Acting Colonial Surgeon.

In a good regular season rain should fall steadily between the middle of June and the middle of October, and during the rest of the year (eight months) there should not be even a shower.

3. To explain further the present depression in the trade and revenue; it now appears that the ground-nuts which were damaged and discoloured by the rain in December 1893 were not purchased by the traders in 1894, but unfortunately, the native planters risked sowing these nuts left on their hands, as they could not purchase better, and the result was that only about half germinated, causing the crop for shipment in the year 1895 to be one of the smallest on record.

4. The Public Revenue must always be a source of anxiety to the Government when there is only a single staple industry, and to remedy if possible this unsound condition of affairs here a Botanical Station was started in April at Kotu, near the coast in Combo, about ten miles from Bathurst.

It is too early to say yet whether any good will result from the scheme, but the Curator, selected from Kew Gardens, has enclosed within a wire fence about 28 acres of land and cleared a small portion, on which he has experimented with cotton, indigo, and other seeds.

5. The cultivation of Cotton and Indigo, the weaving of the narrow strips of cloth which are dyed with the indigo and roughly sewn together making the cloths known as "pagns" with which the natives clothe themselves, have always formed part of the industries of the country, and as far as I have observed the same primitive methods are still adopted by the natives in weaving and dyeing, and indeed I may say in all their habits, as the first European travellers found here, and have described in their books written 200 years ago.

6. It is perhaps rather discouraging to find in the present day, within a few miles of the capital town of this old-established Colony, the natives living in the same style of huts, wearing the same style of clothes, tilling the ground with the same sort of rough tools, pounding their corn, spinning their cotton, and in fact living in every way as they have done for centuries before they ever saw a European.

7. I have often talked on this subject with intelligent natives, but they are the most ultra-conservative race of people I have ever met, without apparently any ambition, their answer generally being that "They met it so," and "Their fathers and grandfathers did it before." "It might be good for White man but not suit Mandingo." And the young children will tell you, "Their fathers and mothers talk Mandingo; why should they learn English?" And I wonder when, if ever, a change will take place in the manners and customs of this part of Africa?

8. The slow progress in civilization is probably due, to some extent, to the want of example and contact with Europeans, for

very few Natives a short distance up the river have ever visited Bathurst. They do not care about travelling on the water and no doubt the accommodation they get in a small cutter is not inviting.

With this condition of affairs in view I recommended that a steamer should be built for regular mail and passenger service up and down the river as far as McCarthy Island (153 miles) every week. The "Mansah Kilah" or "Queen's Messenger," a paddle steamer, 90 feet long and drawing only 5½ feet of water, arrived out from England in February and is now running up and down the river regularly every week. Her cost, delivered out here, was 3,500*l*. She steams about 8 knots an hour, and burns about 4 tons of coal in running to and from McCarthy Island (306 miles). So far she has done very well but it was never calculated that she would earn enough to pay for her working expenses, nearly 2,000*l*. per annum, but she was started as a civilizing peaceful messenger from the Governor in Bathurst to the Mandingoes up the river, and they apparently appreciate it, several having been to Bathurst already who had never ventured so far before.

9. It must I fear be admitted that mission work and education have not been pushed as they ought to have been, from the base at Bathurst, where we have had a footing for nearly a century. The schools in Bathurst do fairly good work, but the average daily attendance of 600 children, out of a population of at least 6,000, is not satisfactory and would seem to indicate that the managers of these Christian schools have not in the past succeeded in establishing branches up in the country or combating successfully with Mahommedanism, or Paganism, even in Bathurst. Perhaps one of the great obstacles has been the want of teachers with a knowledge of the Mandingo language; without which qualification it is almost hopeless to attempt any such work. I have just succeeded in getting an elderly person as schoolmistress at Busumballa, in Combo Protectorate, and am endeavouring to get other teachers who can talk Mandingo, and there are signs that the missions are moving in the matter.

10. The inhabitants of Bathurst are descended from the settlers who came from Senegal in 1816 and are mostly of Joloff extraction, so that the better educated natives in the town either speak Joloff or English, but the language of the Gambia Protectorate and far beyond it is Mandingo. It seems therefore to be a growing necessity that all the Native officials should speak Mandingo, and I have recently in a circular impressed this upon them. Unfortunately the European officers have to be changed so often that before they have time to acquire any language they are transferred to another Colony, where, even on the West Coast, the language spoken will be entirely different.

11. In looking back at what I have written on the present condition of the Colony, or rather perhaps trading Port, of Bathurst, I try to seek for a cause why the River Gambia, undoubtedly

the best waterway in this part of Africa, should not have been turned to more advantage in the past.

12. The termination of the exportation of slaves by Europeans did not end slave-hunting and dealing by the Natives, and they found the waterways of the Gambia advantageous to them for transferring their slaves from place to place; hence it has never been possible in the past for natives living on the banks of the river to quietly follow agricultural pursuits, for the country has been devastated and depopulated nearly up to the very doors of Bathurst by slave-hunters and marauders who were attracted by the waterway.

13. The obligation of the Brussels Conference Act, and the delimitation of the boundary of the Gambia Protectorate, forced the Government to take some active measures or else to practically abandon the old Colony and rights on the Gambia to slave hunters and marauders like Fodi Kabba and Fodi Silah, for there could be no trade or peace as long as they had any power on the River.

14. The punitive expedition against the last named occurred during the year under review, and although all regret the loss of life that occurred in the first attack, yet I am convinced that nothing but force would ever have stopped Fodi Silah from slave-hunting and marauding, which he carried on regularly within ten miles of Bathurst.

15. For years past he has been a pest to the Gambia, and a cruel tyrant in his country, where he kept a band of mercenaries recruited from interior tribes (Karbunkas) ready to commit any outrage for plunder. In 1887 he nearly forced on a quarrel with the late Sir Samuel Rowe at a friendly palaver he went to at Brikama.

In 1891 he stopped the officers of the Anglo French Boundary Commission and then insulted them as far as he could. Latterly, he apparently saw that between the two civilized powers of England and France his career as a slave-hunter was doomed, but he recklessly and fanatically held out, declining all friendly overtures made to him, and at last forced on the Government the punitive expedition sent against him in February.

16. As soon as he and his mercenaries had been defeated and fled, the real native inhabitants settled down peaceably and were thankful to be placed under English rule instead of Fodi Silah.

I recently walked all through this part of the Protectorate without any escort or weapons of defence and consider that life and property is now as safe in Combo as in any Colony I know of.

17. The conquest of "Foreign" Combo, as Fodi Silah's country was called, and its forming part of the Protectorate leads me on to report what has been done towards civilizing and governing the Gambia Protectorate in general since the limits were defined by

GAMBIA. 1894.

the Anglo-French Boundary Commission. In January 1893 two travelling commissioners were appointed, one for each bank of the river, to travel through the country and ascertain what there was, either in the shape of towns, or people or anything else, within the boundary, for there was absolutely no data of any sort to work upon, with the object of establishing some form of civilized Government and to put a stop if possible to slave-dealing within the Protectorate.

18. Since then much information has been obtained, geographically and otherwise, about the country and the people and their sentiments, and on the 27th of December last, two ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council with the above objects and they are now being put in operation.

19. The Protectorate is patrolled regularly for eight months in the year by Commissioners for about 100 miles (rather more on the north bank) up the river as well as in Combo and Fogni. It has been divided into 17 districts, each placed under the management of a Head Chief, appointed by the Administrator, from whom he takes orders and to whom he is responsible for the peace and maintenance of good order in his district.

Native Courts in each district, presided over by the Head Chief, associated with four headmen from other towns in the district, will be held shortly for the trial of minor offences and offences against native customs.

The travelling Commissioners have already commenced to hold regular magistrates' courts in the Protectorate, and the Native Chiefs themselves have on more than one occasion voluntarily sent to Bathurst, for trial in the Supreme Court, persons who have committed serious crimes; and thus has been commenced a form of Government in what was three years ago a wild country, where an European was rarely seen.

20. The ordinance for the abolition of slave-dealing will gradually, but quickly, lead up to the complete extinction of domestic slavery, and indeed I may now say that since the Travelling Commissioners have been visiting the Protectorate the natives have understood that the English would not allow slavery in any form to continue, and they have wisely accepted the situation to an extent that I could not have deemed possible or even hoped for three years ago. The Registrar in Bathurst in his Report for the year 1894 writes as follows:—

"97 natives of Africa, 44 males and 53 females, were liberated from slavery during the year through the intervention of the Travelling Commissioners and the police. A large number of these have settled in Bathurst and in the dependencies of the Colony under the protection of the British flag and a few have returned to their native homes. It was a pleasure to hear, as the writer has often done, these poor people's fervent outpourings of gratitude for their liberation from slavery."

In this report on the Blue Book for the year 1894 it is only possible to refer to the passing of the Protectorate Ordinances in December, but at the time of my writing it (May 1895) the executive action is nearly completed to put them in full operation.

21. There is now, I hope, some prospect of advancement here. Up till last year the old system of trade exclusively by barter was carried on through numerous middlemen who went up the river every dry season. I have no doubt they had hard times with marauders such as Saide Matte, Fodi Kabba, and Fodi Silah, &c., but with these rascals cleared off, and the establishment of a civilized government, the merchants begin to realize that they can now with safety start stores in the Protectorate and send cash as well as goods up the river.

22. It is time, too, now that the inhabitants of Bathurst should begin to understand that the wealth of the country is in the soil, and money is to be made in other ways than merely by bartering or selling goods.

There are, I am glad to report, applications now before me from persons in Bathurst who wish to get land to cultivate in Combo, for I hope all see now, both natives in Bathurst and the Mandingoes in the Protectorate, that the planter will reap what he sows and not be robbed of it by marauders.

23. Following the peaceable settlement of Combo the rubber trade has increased considerably and there is plenty of it in Fogni. Wax, too, which has from time immemorial been an export of the Gambia, has taken a little start. It is still collected in the same old pattern of hives hung up on the trees and prepared in the same rough fashion by the natives just as they did in the days of the Royal African Company 200 years ago.

The rice grown on the banks of the Gambia is pronounced to be equal to the best in the world, but it is only cultivated here by the women for their own "pin money" and large quantities are imported every year for consumption.

With Chinese or Coolie labourers there is ample room here for practically an unlimited cultivation of rice and perhaps, with security to life and property, this enterprise may be taken up by some capitalist.

Piassava—vegetable-ivory, fibres and grasses of many sorts abound, which I believe can be turned to account, and I hope the Protectorate will at no very distant date become a peaceable settlement for agriculturists, instead of a hunting ground for slaves.

24. A fine new pier on iron piles with a T-head, 210 feet long, was completed during the year 1894 at Bathurst, at a cost of 7,000*l.* and ought to be an advantage to steamers when time is an object, as they can lie alongside the pier and discharge cargo from both hatches at the same time. As the mail steamers are

GAMBIA. 1894.

generally behind time it will perhaps assist them a little to being more punctual; but quick passenger and mail boats, with first-class accommodation, are still wanting on the West Coast of Africa under the English flag. The Messágeries steamers run with the regularity of clock-work from Dakar to Bordeaux, calling at Lisbon, in eight days, but the English mail boats take 14 days from the same port to Liverpool, calling at Teneriffe and Madeira, and there is no regularity in the time of the homeward voyage, as each mail boat waits and searches for cargo all the way up the coast. With more comfortable first-class steamers, tourists and business men might be induced to visit the Gambia in the dry season and go up the river for sport or with the object of seeing life in West Africa before the inhabitants become civilized.

Within 3,000 miles of England it is still possible to shoot big game, and live by your gun, on the banks of the Gambia, and to see real wild African life and scenery, but it is difficult to persuade Europeans who are independent to face the climate, which I must allow is trying, but not quite the certain death it is generally considered to be.

May 20, 1895. R. B. LLEWELYN.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 165.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894 *see* No. 143 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1896.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–4
131	British New Guinea	1892–3 & 1893–4
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–4
134	Jamaica	,,
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	,,
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	,,
139	Bahamas	,,
140	Barbados	,,
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
142	Malta	,,
143	Gambia	,,
144	Windward Islands	,,
145	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
146	Gibraltar	,,
147	Falkland Islands	,,
148	Hong Kong	,,
149	Straits Settlements	,,
150	Lagos	,,
151	Seychelles	,,
152	Basutoland	,,
153	Fiji	1894–5
154	St. Helena	1894
155	Ceylon	,,
156	Mauritius	,,
157	Labuan	,,
158	Gold Coast	,,
159	British Guiana	,,
160	Sierra Leone	,,
161	Jamaica	,,
162	British Honduras	1894–5
163	British Bechuanaland	1894
164	Newfoundland	1894–5

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.

No. 165.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1894 *see* No. 143.)

Administrator LLEWELYN to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Bathurst,
April 6, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1895, together with my report on the same.

I have, &c.
R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1895.

1. I am sorry that it is not in my power to give a favourable report of the prosperity of the Colony during the year 1895.

2. It became evident, early in the year, that the yield of the staple export of ground nuts would be far below the estimate, and finally the result showed that the crop was only ten thousand tons instead of the estimate of fifteen, and not quite half the average of the preceding four years.

3. The cause of this misfortune is to be attributed to unfavourable seasons and bad seed nuts.

4. To remedy the latter, the Government purchased about 120 tons of fresh seed nuts in Senegal, and distributed it as far as possible throughout the Protectorate, on loan to the planters.

5. I may here add that these people have faithfully kept their agreement with the Government and, at the time of my writing this, the whole quantity has been practically repaid, and, I may add, cheerfully.

6. It is difficult to foresee what can be done to advance the agricultural industries of a territory in which for eight months of the year there is not a drop of rain, but the Government is trying in every direction to induce the inhabitants to venture on some other cultivation than that of ground nuts.

7. The Botanical Station at Kotri is showing that Liberian coffee will grow, and the fibre extracted from a rafia, of which there is an inexhaustible supply up the river, has been pronounced by a firm of brokers in London to be the best specimen yet sent home from the West Coast of Africa.

8. Owing to the opening up of Kommbo and the freedom now enjoyed by the inhabitants of that district, a great impetus has been given to the rubber trade, and the exports last year amounted to 394,165 lbs. valued at 18,879*l.*, which are the largest figures that I can trace for this product. I am glad to report that the

briskness shown in this trade last year has continued up to the present time and is apparently increasing.

9. The gross revenue for the year was 20,561*l.*; expenditure, 28,867*l.*; value of the exports, 89,000*l.*, including 4,500*l.* specie; value of imports, 97,000*l.*, including 13,500*l.* in specie, all of which figures, except the specie ones, are, I am sorry to say, considerably below the average, and can only be compared with the bad years of 1885-7.

10. On account of this decline in trade it became necessary to draw upon the surplus funds of the Colony, and even then there remained a deficit at the end of the year of 1,826*l.*, a comparatively small amount to be cleared off when the average revenue for the four previous years had amounted to 30,000*l.*, and the revenue and expenditure for 1896 were both estimated in December 1895 at less than 26,000*l.*, a result, however, which I now fear will not be attained.

11. Hopes have been always entertained that, with the establishment of peace and a civilised form of government in the Protectorate, the prosperity of the Colony would advance materially, but, owing to a run of continued unfavourable seasons for agriculture, the changes that have taken place by the establishment of the Protectorate have not yet had a fair chance of showing whether the general hopes of the Government and inhabitants will be realised.

12. It is pleasing to be able to record that the progress of peace and civilised government in the Protectorate has been most marked.

13. The natives have readily paid the Hut Tax, or "Yard Tax," as it is called, of 1*s.* a hut imposed for the first time by an Ordinance passed in March 1895, and in every respect have shown the greatest desire to carry out the orders of the Travelling Commissioners.

14. I have recently travelled throughout the whole of the district on the South Bank, about a hundred miles in length; through the greater part of Kommbo and a small part of Fogni, and everywhere the improvements in the towns and roads are most marvellous, and there is general contentment.

15. The inhabitants, even the wild Jolas in Fogni, were glad to see me, and repeatedly expressed their appreciation of the changes the white-man government was working for them.

16. I attended two native courts and heard three cases tried, all charges of abduction, where in one case a fine of 4*l.* was inflicted and paid, in another the case was very properly dismissed, and in the third the offender, who could not pay the fine, was in default sent to prison in Bathurst for five weeks. Another case occurred, at which I was not present, when the headman of a town brought a charge against one of his people for refusing to obey an order given to him. He was fined 4*l.*, half of which he paid, and the members of the court subsequently begged me to relieve the offender of the moiety, as he had begged their pardon, and I readily acceded to their wishes. I mention these details as interesting, and showing that these native courts, which are only

just starting, may possibly be of great service hereafter; but nobody realises more than I do that they require constant careful watching, and their progress will be slow for many years.

17. A novel case was brought to my notice when I was thanked by a head Chief for sending him some coral; the explanation of the matter being, as I subsequently found out, that even head Chiefs in the Gambia Protectorate are not clear from receiving circulars and patterns. Some enterprising firm in England, who deserve success, had sent a circular with a sample of coral to this head Chief and he, not understanding one word of the circular, came to the conclusion that I had sent him a present of a piece of coral. I record this as the first instance of a circular being received by a Native Mandingo in the Gambia Protectorate, and perhaps as a sign of social progress. I do not wish to advocate that circulars or advertisements of all sorts, such, for instance, as those referring to coals or wine, should be sent indiscriminately to all the people, nor would they do any good, but I am not certain that illustrated catalogues of agricultural implements, hand-ploughs, corn mills, axes, tools, light carts or waggons for oxen, &c. might not start some of the people inquiring about such articles, and, if advertisers would send out a dozen copies to the officer administering the Government, he would know where and how to distribute them, and they would be more likely to bear fruit than if sent direct to a Native head Chief.

18. In the Protectorate there was general peace and order, but I regret that in Bathurst there was a serious disturbance in the middle of November between the civil police and the inhabitants of Bathurst, who supported them, and the frontier armed police force, which had been recruited and embodied early in the year from the tribes in the hinterland of Sierra Leone.

19. It soon became evident that these men were not amenable to discipline, and their disbandment was forced upon the Government by the *émeute* in November.

20. The detachment of the West India Regiment which had been stationed here since July 1891 was withdrawn in February 1895, and I hope no armed force will be considered as necessary again for ordinary garrison duty in Bathurst, which seems to be quieter without the presence of soldiery.

21. The health of Bathurst during the year was good. Malarial fever was only fatal in one case, and the immunity which the community enjoyed during the rainy season from fatal fevers is attributed by the Registrar to the exceptionally heavy rains that fell between the first week in July and the first week in September (55 inches in 60 days), accompanied by frequent tornadoes, and also to the active vigilance of the Board of Health in the discovery and removal of causes tending to prejudice the public health.

22. Early on the morning of the 26th of August a most terrific thunderstorm hung over the town of Bathurst for three-quarters of an hour, accompanied by a deluge of rain which flooded the whole town and did not subside until the tide fell in the river. Fifteen inches of rain fell in 27 hours, and the storm was generally admitted to have been the most severe one ever experienced here.

GAMBIA. 1895.

I attach a copy of the usual comparative and annual meteorological returns.

23. The population of the Colony proper is not increasing, and probably the check that has been given to the introduction of alien children, who I am afraid were often purchased, will keep the figures even more stationary. In 1891, there were 378 alien children on the register, but the figures have now dwindled down to 99.

24. It is difficult to estimate the population in the Protectorate, but a rough estimate based on the number of huts in those parts of the Protectorate visited by commissioners, which is about two-thirds of the whole of the Gambia Protectorate, would give a population of about 75,000, and I think the population of the whole is, at the lowest estimate, 100,000.

25. The Mahommedan system of a plurality of wives, the custom of purchasing as wives girls from their parents, and the practice of prolonged suckling by mothers of infants, together with want of care, all tend to retard a very large annual increase in the population.

26. Much interesting work remains to be done in the Protectorate, and it is impossible to foretell at this early stage what will be the condition of the country in a few years to come; but I hope, as everything looks so promising, that the efforts of the Government to establish law and order will not be in vain, and that all who have laboured in this good work will be gratified by the results in the future.

R. B. LLEWELYN.

4th April 1896.

COMPARATIVE RAINFALL, COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
January - -	·01	—	·02	—	—
February - -	·16	—	—	—	—
March - -	—	—	—	—	—
April - -	—	·01	·40	·07	—
May - - -	·53	1·38	2·16	—	—
June - - -	4·67	3·05	3·29	5·33	0·86
July - - -	7·42	14·89	20·57	16·54	12·00
August - -	18·84	22·65	30·57	18·64	36·63
September - -	19·81	4·76	13·00	13·35	12·34
October - -	1·97	4·39	7·33	1·29	2·95
November - -	—	—	·15	·64	2·08
December - -	—	—	·40	—	—
	53·41	51·13	77·89	55·86	66·86

Average, 61·03.

R. M. FORDE, Colonial Surgeon.

Meteorological Observations, 1895.

1895. Months.	Average for month at 7 a.m.			Maximum in shade at 3 p.m.			Minimum in shade at 7 a.m.			Rainfall in inches.		
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Total.	Maximum.	Date.
January - -	67·5	60·9	55·4	72°	62·5	64·5	66°	58°	63·5	—	—	—
February - - -	68·7	64·9	61·9	93°	63°	73°	68°	58°	64·2	—	—	—
March - - -	67·7	62·8	58·8	99°	72·5	78·8	64·5	60°	62°	—	—	—
April - - -	68°	64·7	58°	94°	72·5	76·3	68°	61°	63·8	—	—	—
May - - -	71·4	67°	63·6	88·5	71·5	77·8	69°	62°	65°	—	—	—
June - - -	76·7	72·5	69·5	87·5	77·5	82°	74°	66·5	70·4	0·86	0·45	20-6-95
July - - -	78·3	74·5	72·8	90°	81·5	85°	77·5	70°	74°	12·00	2·22	8-7-95
August - - -	76°	74·4	73·2	87°	78·5	83°	77·5	69°	69·8	36·63	11·93	25-8-95
September - -	77°	75°	71·6	89·5	80·5	86°	79°	70°	73°	12·34	3·27	6-9-95
October - - -	79°	76°	73·9	92·5	85°	88°	78·5	71°	75·8	2·95	0·81	7-10-95
November - -	75°	70°	66·4	91·5	77·5	86°	77°	66·5	71°	2·08	2·06	19-11-95
December - - -	69·9	61·3	54·6	93·5	83°	87·3	73°	71·5	66·7	—	—	—

Total rainfall for 1895,—66·86 nches.

R. M. Forde, Colonial Surgeon.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 195.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 165.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1897.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
166	Bermuda	1895
167	Leeward Islands	1894
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	"
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	"
186	Basutoland	1895–6
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–6
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–6
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	"
194	Zululand	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 195.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 165 of this Series.)

Administrator LLEWELYN to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
May 14, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1896, together with my Report on the same.

I have, &c.

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1896.

There was a slight improvement in the trade of the Colony during the year owing to a considerable business being done in the export of rubber, but, on the other hand, the crop of ground nuts did not come up to the expectation of the merchants, and it was consequently found necessary in May to increase some of the import duties so as to raise sufficient revenue to carry on the ordinary working expenses of the public service.

2. Fortunately there was a revival of trade after the rainy season had passed, and this caused the receipts to increase so that at the end of the year the deficit of 1,600*l.* which existed on the 1st of January was reduced to about 700*l.*

3. I believe that although the total export of ground nuts was only 12,000 tons, yet the price obtained was rather better than it had been for some time, and the year for the commercial houses was not without some profit.

4. The most gratifying item of revenue was that collected in the Protectorate from the hut tax. Without any penal clause in the Ordinance, and without the presence of even a constable in the territory, the Commissioners were paid in cash voluntarily by the people their tax of 1*s.* per hut. This amounted to 970*l.*, and with traders licenses 432*l.*, and miscellaneous receipts 264*l.*,

brought the total receipts in the Protectorate up to 1,666*l.*; which for a first attempt must be considered as very satisfactory. Writing this report in May, 1897, I am glad to be able to state that up to date this year 1,800*l.* has been collected from the same sources without the slightest difficulty.

5. The total revenue of the Colony amounted to 26,171*l.* and the expenditure, which was kept as low as possible, to 25,300*l.* This included extraordinary expenditure of 518*l.* for repairs to Oyster Creek Bridge, 490*l.* for an iron residence for the curator at the Botanical Station, and 414*l.* for the expenses of the Anglo-French Boundary Survey.

6. By legislation those parts of the old Colony known as the "Ceded Mile" and McCarthy Island, were, for administrative purposes, included within the Protectorate. This has been done with the object of putting these outlying places under the Travelling Commissioner and on the same footing as the adjoining Protectorate.

An important measure was passed placing the management of the public lands in the Colony and Protectorate in the hand of the Government in cases where no legitimate owners could be found. This measure, it is hoped, will encourage capitalists to take up tracts of land for agricultural purposes, as the Government is now able to issue "land certificates" to persons who *bonâ fide* intend to cultivate the land. There are large tracts of land on the banks of this river suitable for the growing of rice, and that and the cultivation of indigo and cotton have long been carried on by the natives according to their primitive fashion. With the peace and order now existing in the Protectorate there should be a good field here for the safe investment of capital, which is much to be desired, as up to the present time the only capital in the country has been in trade and the people themselves have managed to scrape out of the ground an article of export worth 120,000*l.* a year. Surely with capital and intelligence this might be largely increased.

7. The criminal statistics for the year show a most appreciable diminution in crime, the offences being 44 less than in the previous year and the smallest number reported in any one year during the last decade, and, in fact, I think I may add that at present there is a perfect calm here. In further proof of this, I am happy to report that the daily average number of prisoners in the jail here during 1896 was only 17, just half the number, 34, that it was for the previous 10 years; and it must be borne in mind that offenders in the Protectorate are now sent to Bathurst to undergo imprisonment in the jail there.

8. The vital statistics are not so encouraging to study as those relating to the diminution in crime. The returns are not to be implicitly relied upon, as it is difficult for the registrar to get perfect information relating to births and deaths. Apparently the birth-rate is 25 per thousand, and the death-rate 26 per thousand. Out of 381 children born 174 died during babyhood, which is a lamentable fact, but I cannot see what steps can be taken to

enforce mothers to take more care of their infants. There were four deaths amongst the Europeans, including that of Mr. Bascom, the Collector of Customs.

9. The unhealthiness of Bathurst, owing to its low-lying position, during the rainy season, July to October, is well known. During those four months the climate is, perhaps, the most trying on the west coast of Africa, and in the dry season the great diurnal variations in temperature are equally trying to some constitutions. In the first months of the year the thermometer not unfrequently stands at 68° at sunrise and over 100° at 3 in the afternoon. This, with a strong breeze, is very apt to produce a chill and bring out the latent malarial fever. I am afraid that there is no chance of entirely stamping out malarial fever in a town built on a mud bank with the mangroves right up to its outskirts.

I append a comparative table of the meteorological statistics. The rainfal.—51 inches—was below the average, but it is about the quantity that is required to ensure a good harvest, if it falls at the right periods.

10. The education of the children of Bathurst does not progress as satisfactorily as could be desired. The bulk of the parents are quite indifferent to it; and the number of children on the rolls is under 900, when it ought to be 1,500. Many of the children have parents who only speak Jolloff or Mandingo, and it is very difficult for these to be instructed in English a few hours every day, as when with their family at home they never hear it spoken. There are also many Mahomedans in Bathurst, and they are most reluctant to send their children to school at all. In the Protectorate, up to the present, all efforts have failed to induce the people to let their children attend an English school. Time alone can bring this about, and it will only be done by perseverance and great patience. The managers of the schools do their best, but when it is remembered the extent to which Mahomedanism prevails, and the openly expressed views of the people that they do not wish to be improved, the difficulties of advancing the education of the masses, except by compulsion, are apparent, and at present I do not think this step could be taken.

Protectorate.

11. Great strides have been made in the management of the Protectorate, and it is hardly possible to realise the change that has occurred within the last three or four years in the territories adjacent to Bathurst.

12. The tyrannical rule of the native chiefs is now supplanted by the establishment of native courts, which during the year heard and settled 38 cases. As far as it is possible to judge at present, these courts will be of great service hereafter in maintaining peace and order. No regular police force is stationed anywhere in the Protectorate, but in each town there are a certain number of

"messengers," selected from the inhabitants, who, when the headman issues to them a badge (an enamelled Union Jack) worn by a cord round the neck, have all the power, authority, and protection of a regular police officer.

They are remunerated at a fixed rate per day for their services when so employed, and the system seems to be working very satisfactorily.

13. Domestic slavery—the only form that now exists—is moribund, as the slaves all know their position, and without any violent measures being resorted to by the Government, the whole fabric of slavery is gradually and rapidly crumbling to pieces. In considering this, it is remarkable that the crop of ground nuts has not largely decreased. But the establishment of peace within the Protectorate has induced settlers to come within it, and many of the free-born who formerly would not work are now compelled to.

14. Another change, too, has arisen out of the establishment of the Protectorate, and that is the end of the old system of trading by barter. Formerly it was not safe for the merchants in Bathurst to send traders with cash up the river, but now this can be done, and has been carried out this year.

15. This will lead to the establishment of stores or factories up the river, where the natives will in a few years' time be able to purchase their supplies with their cash at prices very little in advance of those charged in Bathurst.

16. The system of only allowing persons with licences to trade in the Protectorate has had the effect of securing a much more reliable body of men engaged in this pursuit, and the natives are not now subjected to the troubles that formerly frequently arose between them and the traders. The establishment of confidence and friendship between the trader and the native planter is a great advantage to all classes.

17. By the aid of the Government steamer "Mansah Kilah"—Queen's Messenger—I have been able to induce many chiefs and others to visit Bathurst, and had a general meeting there of all the head chiefs in April. This little steamer has now been running for over two years, and is indispensable in carrying out the administration of the Protectorate.

18. Many improvements have been made in the laying out of the towns with wide streets in blocks and squares instead of the old style of circular village with narrow paths going round and round within the stockade, like the maze at Hampton Court.

19. Roads, bamboo bridges, and embankments of mud across swamps have all received attention, but it is needless to add that much remains to be done for many years in a Protectorate of 3,600 square miles, which was practically unknown until within the last three or four years.

20. With the knowledge that has been gained and the interest which the people see is now being taken to protect and assist them, I have no doubt that the Mandingo man spoke truly when he said "that the English Government had nothing more to fear

"from native chiefs and their warboys, as they had felt the "benefits of the white man's government and would themselves "put down any would-be chief," and I think I may conclude by adding that the year 1896 was one of unparalleled peace and quiet at the Gambia.

R. B. LLEWELYN.

14th May 1897.

Comparative Rainfall, Colony of the Gambia.

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
January	—	·02	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—
April	·01	·40	·07	—	—
May	1·38	2·16	—	—	0·24
June	3·05	3·29	5·33	0·86	3·69
July	14·89	20·57	16·54	12·00	12·97
August	22·65	30·57	18·64	36·63	17·30
September	4·76	13·00	13·35	12·34	11·96
October	4·39	7·33	1·29	2·95	4·96
November	—	·15	·64	2·03	—
December	—	·40	—	—	0·06
	51·13	77·89	55·86	66·86	51·18

Average 60·58.

R. M. FORDE,
Colonial Surgeon.

Meteorological Observations, 1896.

Months.	Average for Month at 7 a.m.			Maximum in Shade at 3 p.m.			Minimum in Shade at 7 a.m.			Rainfall in Inches.		
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew-point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Total.	Maximum.	Date.
January - -	68·5	62·2	57·2	89·5	77·	83·7	69·	60·5	66·3	—	—	—
February -	67·8	60·4	54·5	94·5	73·	83·6	69·5	61·5	65·5	—	—	—
March - -	69·	61·9	56·3	97·	74·	84·4	71·	61·	66·4	—	—	—
April - -	72·1	65·9	61·2	102·	77·5	87·7	74·	64·5	68·4	—	—	—
May - - -	76·3	70·7	66·7	96·	76·	86·	77·5	67·	73·5	0·24	0·18	25-5-96
June - -	80·08	75·06	71·6	92·5	84·5	87·7	80·5	72·	76·	3·69	0·92	29-6-96
July - - -	79·	75·4	72·9	90·5	81·	86·2	80·	67·5	74·6	12·97	4·78	9-7-96
August - -	78·4	75·5	73·5	89·5	78·5	85·3	78·5	70·5	74·3	17·30	5·05	17-8-96
September -	79·1	75·9	74·1	90·	81·5	86·5	78·	70·5	74·5	11·96	4·39	23-9-96
October - -	78·8	75·9	74·01	91·5	83·	87·5	80·	69·5	74·8	4·96	1·14	8-10-96
November -	76·4	70·6	66·4	93·	84·	88·8	78·	64·	73·06	—	—	—
December -	66·4	59·2	53·3	90·	73·	77·5	73·	60·5	66·2	0·06	0·06	31-12-96

Total rainfall for 1896 = 51·18 inches.

R. M. FORDE,
Colonial Surgeon.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 229.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 195.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1898.

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ANNUAL.

No	Colony.	Year.
196	Malta	1896
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia...	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	„
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.

No. 229.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 195.)

ADMINISTRATOR LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
29th March 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1897, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

It is gratifying to be able to commence this report on the Gambia for the Jubilee year of Her Majesty by stating that in every way it was one of the most peaceful and prosperous that has occurred in Her Majesty's long reign.

2. The export of the staple product of ground nuts was 20,000 tons, as against 12,000 tons in the year 1896, and, as the average value of the nuts was better, I believe all the mercantile firms enjoyed a very prosperous year.

3. The export of rubber also improved, and prices in Europe advanced considerably; so this, too, helped to materially increase the general trade of the Colony. The total value of the exports was £164,000, and of the imports £140,000 (exclusive of specie transactions). The average for the five previous years 1892–6 being: exports £142,000, imports £115,000.

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4. With such a good business for the Colony, it is not to be surprised at that the Revenue nearly reached £40,000; and, as the Expenditure was less than £28,000, the Colony was able to wipe off the small deficit of about £700, and close the year 1897 with a surplus of £11,300.

5. I may perhaps be excused for believing that part of the success is due to the continued peace and improvement in administration in the Protectorate attached to this Colony—for, after working here for seven years, I trust I am justified in my remark, that the Gambia Protectorate is progressing most satisfactorily, and far better than was anticipated.

6. In the present state of affairs here, fresh legislation of any sort can be dispensed with, except in gradually keeping up to date some of the ordinary laws which exist in all civilized communities; and therefore, the only Ordinances passed during the year were such as those relating to the market, the slaughter-house, and hawking—all of which are practically municipal.

7. The Board of Health in the town of Bathurst is composed, with one exception, of officials; and their duties, which are principally those of keeping the town clean and healthy, may, I think, be considered to have been satisfactorily performed, from the return of the number of deaths, as given below, in each year since the year 1891, when I first came here, and organized this official Board.

1891	...	...	...	657
1892	...	...	...	638
1893	...	...	...	611
1894	...	...	...	575
1895	...	...	...	503
1896	...	...	...	393
1897	...	...	...	365

8. I may here also remark that the year 1897 was, I believe, the first on record in which no death occurred amongst the European population, notwithstanding the fact that the rainfall was only 33·61 inches, against an average of 57·08 inches (*see* Meteorological Return attached), and that hitherto it has always been considered that a light rainfall—such as occurred last year—produced an unhealthy season.

9. The rates on house property, assisted by a grant of £200 per annum from the general Revenue—practically an equivalent for the rates on Government buildings—suffice to cover all the expenses, about £650 per annum, of keeping the town clean, and lighting the streets, &c., but the general Revenue is charged with the maintenance of the drains, the erection of the latrines, sinking of wells, and such like works of a permanent character.

10. I think it is freely admitted that the buildings, both private and public, in Bathurst—and the cleanly neat appearance of the town and streets in general—are not to be equalled anywhere in the English Colonies on the West Coast of Africa; and the Gambians a.e justly proud of it.

11. The celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee in June was naturally the event of the year, and the greatest loyalty was manifested by all classes, including the Head Chiefs, and many others from the most distant parts of the Protectorate.

12. Public subscriptions were raised for—

(1) Providing amusements, including sports and fireworks.

(2) For a permanent memorial in the erection of a Female Hospital, with the special object of training—by European nurses—native female nurses in the Colony, which scheme is now under further consideration.

13. The gift of the Government to the people in celebration of the event was the freeing from tolls of the Oyster Creek Bridge, thus uniting closer with Bathurst the old part of the Colony of British Kommbo and the new Protectorate of Foreign Kommbo, making it all happily now known as "Kommbo."

14. The whole of the rejoicings passed off without a single breach of the peace, or hitch of any sort. and, considering the large concourse of persons from the interio., representing different tribes and creeds, not always friendly disposed towards each other, I think it reflects the greatest credit on all, and tends further to show the general peace and quiet that now prevails in these regions.

15. I may here appropriately insert a paragraph relating to the Criminal Statistics of the Colony, which show a still further decrease, in all respects, on the very low figures of the previous year. Then I was able to report that the figures for 1896 were the lowest reported, and I now give the actual figures in 1896 and 1897 for comparison :—

—	1896.	1897.
Offences	175	112
Daily average number in prison	17	13

16. By far the most important and interesting work in the Gambia is that accomplished in the Protectorate, and I am happy

GAMBIA. 1897.

to be able to report that continued progress in every way has attended the efforts that have been made during the last four years to advance civilization, and establish a suitable system of administration.

17. The Travelling Commissioners have made their presence felt in every town, and are now looked upon as welcome guests. One of the secrets of their success is that, by "travelling," instead of remaining at a head station in a district, they get to know the people in their homes. I realize myself—for I have visited nearly every town in the Protectorate—that there is a great advantage in letting the people see a Governor, or his representative, if even only for a day. It gives confidence, down to the smallest child, and the people feel that the Government is really and practically taking some interest in them.

18. The work of the Tax Collector is then simplified, and I am pleased again to be able to report that all the "Hut Tax" has been paid in cash without the slightest difficulty of any sort. The total Revenue collected in the Protectorate was £2,540, and the Expenditure £2,085, so that, in three years, the cost of Protectorate officers, &c., has been covered by the direct taxes raised in the Protectorate.

19. The introduction of a cash trade, instead of barter, in the Protectorate, is bearing fruit. It has encouraged the people in the Protectorate to plant, and it has attracted people into the Protectorate from elsewhere—which is not to be wondered at, for the African, like everyone else, recognizes that money has its value everywhere, and he can obtain with it what he actually wants in any country.

20. I wish that I could also report that some additional Europeans with capital had entered into the Protectorate; but there are signs that this will soon follow, for I hope it is now realized in Europe that property is as safe in the Protectorate as in any Colony; and as a proof of the security that is felt, I may mention that merchants in Bathurst are now able to insure in European offices their produce and buildings against fire in the Protectorate—and two or three substantial trading stations, with iron roofs, &c., were erected last year. What stronger certificate is required than this that peace and security to life and property are now established in the Gambia Protectorate?

R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

28th March 1898.

COMPARATIVE RAINFALL, COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

—	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
January	·02	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—
April	·40	·07	—	—	—
May	2·16	—	—	0·24	0·12
June	3·29	5·33	0·86	3·69	1·65
July	20·57	16·54	12·00	12·97	8·11
August	30·57	18·64	36·63	17·30	10·27
September	13·00	13·35	12·34	11·96	11·84
October	7·33	1·29	2·95	4·96	1·49
November	·15	·64	2·08	—	0·13
December	·40	—	—	0·06	—
Total	77·89	55·86	66·86	51·18	33·61

Average, 57·08.

R. M. FORDE, *Colonial Surgeon.*

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1897.

1897. Months.	Average for month at 7 A.M.			Maximum in shade at 3 P.M.			Minimum in shade at 7 A.M.			Rainfall in inches.		
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew-point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Total.	Maximum.	Date.
January	67·9	60·4	54·4	92·5	77·5	83·2	75	60	65·01	—	—	—
February	68·8	58·7	50·7	98	81	89·3	71·5	60·5	65·2	—	—	—
March	71·5	67·9	65·1	102·5	71	87·1	73	65	68·7	—	—	—
April	73·7	68·9	65·7	103	79	90·08	74·5	66	70·7	—	—	—
May	75·1	70·4	66·9	99·5	78·5	82·4	75·5	67·5	71·7	0·12	0·12	27/5/97
June	78·7	75·03	72·3	93	83·5	87·2	78	72	75·5	1·65	0·97	17/6/97
July	78·5	77·7	77·1	90	81	85·5	79	71·5	75·3	8·11	1·42	13/7/97
August	78·7	74·1	70·9	89·5	79·5	85·9	80	72·5	76·1	10·27	1·83	24/8/97
September ...	77·9	76·06	74·7	89	80·5	85·8	80	71·5	74·9	11·84	3·24	9/9/97
October	79·5	76·1	73·7	94	81·5	88·3	79·5	72·5	76	1·49	0·88	8/10/97
November ...	75·2	68·9	64·6	92	74	86·6	78	64	73·4	0·13	0·06	27/11/97
December	68·4	55·2	44·7	89·5	79	84·3	71·5	59	66·6	—	—	—

(Total Rainfall for 1897, 33·61 inches.)

R. M. FORDE, *Colonial Surgeon.*

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 264.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 229.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August, 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony &c.	Year.
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia...	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar...	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	West African Frontier Force...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
262	Barbados...	1898
263	Falkland Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics.

No. 264.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 229.)

ADMINISTRATOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
26th April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book and my Report thereon for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,
R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

3311—800—7/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

GAMBIA, 1898.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Colony amounted to £43,717, an increase of £4,300 above the revenue for 1897, and the largest sum ever collected.

During the year some premises in Bathurst that the Government had purchased a few years ago, when a site for a public wharf was required, were sold for £3,000, which raised the total receipts to £46,717, and as the total expenditure only amounted to £29,035, the Colony was able to increase its surplus by over £17,000, and there was thus, on the 31st December 1898, an available surplus of £29,000. I therefore can briefly state that the financial position of this small Colony, without any debt, was most satisfactory.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

2. The comparative table of revenue shews the steady increase year by year since 1896 of the receipts from the Protectorate, and from the passenger and freight traffic on the Government steamer "Mansah Kilah" on her weekly journeys up and down the river to M'Carthy Island.

The revenue from the Protectorate has risen as follows:—

	£
In 1896	1,666
„ 1897	2,540
„ 1898	3,165

and from the "Mansah Kilah"—

	£
1896	329
1897	612
1898	971

from the export duties on ground nuts—

	£
1896	18,625
1897	29,736
1898	33,761

3. The expenditure amounted to £29,000 and calls for no special comment as only the ordinary services were provided for.

4. During the year the old pilot service at the entrance of the river was abolished, and an improved plan of "buoyage" has been adopted.

The entrance to the River Gambia is not near any high land, and is often out of sight of the low-lying coast. The Fairway bell-buoy is 21 miles from Bathurst, and without all the appliances for lifting buoys it is difficult to maintain them in perfect order; but it is hoped that the buoys will be managed easier than a pilot cutter and be quite as effective. Being less costly to maintain the dues on shipping were reduced at the end of the year, and are now only five shillings per foot (draught measurement).

5. The comparative table of imports gives the value of the cotton goods imported during the year as £60,787, an increase of £3,800 on the previous year, and £25,000 more than in 1889. This is a large increase, and practically all came from Manchester.

The patterns of the native cloths or pagns are now closely imitated by the manufacturers in England. Personally I should be sorry to see the native clothmaker, with his primitive loom, entirely disappear from the villages, but probably, though not in my time, the day will come when native bandy cloth will be a curiosity and the art of making it a forgotten one.

The "home-made" cloth will die hard, for it is far more lasting than the shoddy material made in Europe.

The old natives often tell me that the white man does not send them such good cotton as formerly. It is cheaper, but some would prefer to pay more and get better articles. The merchant buys only the cheapest and commonest, and keeps up the highest price he can as long as he can, and only gradually reduces it when forced by competition.

The imports of tobacco in 1898 were a little larger than in 1897, but the quantity of spirits doubled.

The quantity of kola nuts imported was 33 per cent. less, but owing to the rise in the price caused by the disturbances in Sierra Leone, where all the nuts came from, the value was the same—nearly £22,000.

These kola nuts are consumed entirely by the natives, especially the Mahomedans, and they are offered to a friend when visiting in the same way that a European tenders a cigar or refreshment.

The most remarkable feature in the imports was the very large increases in rice and sugar. Rice rose from 1,432 tons in 1897 to 3,960 tons in 1898. This is abnormal and partly to be accounted for by the plague of locusts which destroyed the corn and home-grown rice. Also the farmers found it paid better to plant ground nuts, which fortunately the locusts do not seem to care for, and purchase rice with the cash they obtained for their nuts.

The importations of sugar were more remarkable. In 1889 the total imports of this article were 1,083 cwt., of which 486 cwt. came from France; in 1897, 1,607 cwt.; and in 1898, 2,911 cwt., of which 2,393 cwt. came from France and which cost there 2*d.* per

GAMBIA, 1898.

pound in small loaves. The import duty on sugar is 1*d.* a pound, and it is retailed in Bathurst at 6*d.* a pound.

There must be an increasing demand for sugar in Africa as the country gets opened up, for the native African has certainly a sweet tooth, and it seems to me that there is an opening here for West Indian sugar.

As the crop of ground nuts in 1889 was about the same as in 1897, I give below for comparison the quantities of ground nuts exported in the three years 1889, 1897, and 1898, and the value or quantities of the principal imports in those years :—

	1889.	1897.	1898.
Exports :—			
Ground nuts ... *Tons*	19,636	20,279	33,078
Imports :—			
Cotton goods ... £	35,857	56,983	60,787
Rice ... ... *Tons*	906	1,432	3,960
Sugar ... ... *Cwts.*	1,082	1,619	2,921
Salt ... ... *Tons*	691	1,605	1,192
Spirits ... *Gallons*	40,108	20,576	40,319
Kola nuts ... £	21,211	21,885	21,639
Tobacco ... ... *lbs.*	296,978	272,580	292,472

It will be seen from the above, comparing the crops of ground nuts which are entirely grown by natives with the imported articles which they specially consume, that the taste for spirits and tobacco is proportionately decreasing, and for kolas increasing, for the value of the latter would have been far more in 1898 if the kolas had been procurable, whilst the consumption of sugar has increased in a marvellous manner as referred to above, and rice owing to special causes.

No Muscovado sugar is imported, but I am sure it would be appreciated by the natives to mix with their "pap"—a preparation of pounded corn—if it could be obtained in handy packages. Sugar packed in bagging gets moist in this damp climate in lightly constructed native huts ; but I think if it could be put up in tins or kegs, which could be retailed here at a dollar or two dollars a package, it would take.

The merchants here would expect to get double their invoice price—Could ten pounds of good clean Muscovado sugar be packed in tins or small kegs and delivered here for one shilling and eightpence ?

I may, perhaps, also mention, as a requirement in Africa, salt—which one small English colony in the West Indies produces of an excellent quality. The salt at present imported here is made by solar evaporation in the Cape Verde Islands. It is not to be compared with Turks Islands salt for purity, and I believe the latter could be sold as cheap or cheaper.

What is wanted, is to connect the West Indies and the West Coast of Africa by direct steam communication.

Many common articles of food in the West Indies, such as salt, fish, and cornmeal, would, if they were introduced on the West Coast of Africa, be as popular there as they are with their kinsfolk in the West Indies.

I believe, too, in the course of time the inhabitants would pass to and fro, as they would not on the voyage have to leave a tropical climate, which many now dread. Such a steam service would not pay at first, but it should in a reasonable time, if carefully managed.

Great advantage, too, would accrue if some of the better mechanics, such as engine drivers for steam launches, men who have been trained in the working of machinery on sugar estates, carpenters, masons, painters, blacksmiths, and even schoolmasters and native clerks could be induced to come to the West Coast of Africa; and I think they would if transport was easy and cheap, for they could cross as deck passengers in a voyage that would be entirely performed within the tropics. Perhaps all the colonies in the West Indies as well as those on the West Coast of Africa might for a few years contribute a small subsidy to a steamship company.

Exports.

The staple export, ground nuts, are almost exclusively shipped to France, although a few cargoes now go to Holland; and I cannot understand why there is no manufactory of oil from these nuts in England, for the business must be profitable.

The following figures are, I believe, fairly reliable:—

30,000 tons of nuts could be delivered annually from this Colony in England at a cost of £6 per ton. A ton of nuts gives 80 gallons of oil, which is worth from 2*s*. to 3*s*. per gallon.

In addition there is a large percentage of oil-cake for cattle fodder—briefly, nuts worth £180,000 give oil worth £300,000, and give cake worth value not known. I am unable to give the cost of the necessary machinery and factory required, but it looks like, and I understand it is, a profitable business to manufacture ground-nut oil, which resembles olive oil, and is I am informed used in the manufacture of butter and cheese.

I close these remarks on trade with comparative tables of the principal Exports and Imports for the years 1897 and 1898, and total Imports and Exports for the last five years.

COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

Comparative Statement of Principal Articles of Imports and Exports, 1897 and 1898.

Imports.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
			£	£	£	£
Cotton Goods	3,352 pkgs.	3,336 pkgs.	56,983	60,787	3,804	—
Tobacco	272,580 lbs.	292,472 lbs.	6,110	7,190	1,080	—
Kola Nuts	834,441 lbs.	520,366 lbs.	21,885	21,639	—	246
Spirits	20,576 galls.	40,319 galls.	2,344	4,373	2,029	—
Wine	14,488 galls.	14,310 galls.	1,728	1,911	183	—
Sugar	1,619 cwts.	2,921 cwts.	1,409	2,583	1,174	—
Salt	1,605 tons	1,192 tons	1,526	997	—	529
Gunpowder	411 brls.	610 brls.	746	970	224	—
Rice	28,642 cwts.	79,208 cwts.	13,529	38,223	24,694	—
		Exports.				
Ground Nuts	20,279 tons	33,078 tons	126,605	200,309	93,704	—
Rubber	423,103 lbs.	481,020 lbs.	23,457	30,468	7,011	—
Palm Kernels	145 tons	145 tons	1,145	919	—	226
Wax	53,375 lbs.	42,859 lbs.	1,914	1,833	—	81
Hides	1,651	1,528	180	311	131	—

RETURN SHEWING TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, 1894 TO 1898.

Imports.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	11,177	13,432	19,262	36,515	59,030
Other Articles ...	119,172	83,967	91,062	139,812	187,062
Total ...	130,349	97,399	110,324	176,327	246,092

Exports.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	7,226	4,490	543	2,272	2,722
Other Articles ...	141,917	89,047	116,438	163,622	245,110
Total ...	149,143	93,537	116,981	165,894	247,832

MUNICIPALITY.

The only Public or Municipal Board in the Colony is that known as the Board of Health of Bathurst, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance 4 of 1887. It derives its revenue from the rates (fixed annually) on houses and land within the

town, and fees collected at the Slaughter House; and the Government gives an annual grant of £200 in lieu of all rates on Government buildings.

The total revenue collected is between £700 and £800 per annum, which is expended in cleaning the streets, attending to the drains, lighting the streets, and generally looking after the sanitation of the town.

The Board had £248 to its credit at the end of the year, which is now being spent in providing additional and better lamps in the town. I believe the town of Bathurst is kept as neat and clean as any West African town can be.

AGRICULTURE.

Nothing has yet been done to develop or improve the agricultural resources of the Colony.

A botanical station was started four years ago, and a number of orange and other fruit trees planted and distributed throughout the Protectorate. Orange trees bear remarkably well in Kommbo, but are slow of growth at first. I hope, however, that in a few years time the supply of this fruit will largely increase, and some may then be shipped to the drier regions in the neighbourhood, such as Senegal, or up the river to the interior where fruit is scarce but always very acceptable to the natives residing there.

Attempts are being made to introduce ploughing with oxen, and the Government has two pairs of oxen broken in at the botanical station which are used for ploughing and drawing a cart, and as the cattle are now, after the disease of 1892, beginning to increase again, it is hoped the natives, seeing what can be done by the Government plough and cart, will soon adopt the same course.

Coconuts, which grow well on the sandy shore near Bathurst, have been planted and should give some good returns in a few years; but it is most difficult to get anyone here with capital to think of anything but trading.

One firm has just imported machinery for the purpose of extracting piassava from a plant which grows in profusion up the river, and if the enterprise succeeds it will add an export to the Colony.

I believe that pita, sisal hemp, could be cultivated here in the dry tracts of now useless land; but this requires capital.

Land can be obtained from the Government for agricultural purposes on easy conditions on payment of 2*d.* per acre per annum for 21 years, and capitalists would do well here if men with practical knowledge were employed to work the land by planting what is suited to the soil and climate. At present none have attempted it.

SHIPPING, FREIGHTS, &c.

English vessels are still doing the greater part of the carrying trade of the Colony. The river is open to the navigation of vessels of all nationalities and nearly every nation has had some steamer here to take away produce.

The rates of freight for cargo from England by the mail steamers are very high (42*s.* 6*d.* a ton plus 10 per cent.).

I cannot obtain from the agents here any printed tariff of charges, but I believe, generally speaking, the rates are considered unnecessarily high for this port. Unfortunately, the Company has a monopoly, and so can fix its own terms, which must check commerce. Outward freights from Marseilles or Bordeaux in French steamers are less than half what are charged by the English mail boats from Liverpool, which are continually raising their rates.

The mail steamers get privileges and facilities everywhere, and although not subsidized an improvement in speed, comfort, and punctuality are much wanted. Remonstrance is useless against a powerful monopoly, but there is no doubt this Colony is very badly served by the mail steamers running here.

Ground nuts are carried in bulk in steamers to Marseilles for about 20*s.* a ton. Some of these tramp steamers have good passenger accommodation, and travel quite as fast and even faster than the English mail steamers.

SAVINGS BANK, FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There has been an increase in the number of depositors and amount of deposits during the last five years. The balance left on the 31st December last was £2,562.

The natives in the Protectorate are being told of its existence, but at present all their savings are being spent on cattle to replace those they lost seven years ago by disease.

There are 27 Friendly Societies or Burial Clubs in Bathurst, which had £727 (the greater part in the Savings Bank) to their

credit at the end of the year. The rules for the management of these Friendly Societies have to be first approved of by the Legislative Council, and, generally speaking, they are practical; but I have been amused sometimes at the grandiose titles of the office bearers, which include a "mistress of the robes," who is to see that persons attending funerals are properly attired according to minute regulations. Yet, for all this, the main idea is charity! and I believe these clubs do good in their way.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS, PRISONS, &C.

The Criminal Statistics of the Colony shew that there is very little crime.

The Native Courts in the Protectorate are steadily improving, and are doing useful work in maintaining order. Crimes of a serious nature are dealt with by the travelling Commissioners in the Protectorate or by the Supreme Court in Bathurst. There are now about six prisoners from the Protectorate in the gaol in Bathurst.

VITAL STATISTICS, CLIMATE, &C.

I regret to say that the death-rate in Bathurst last year rose from 365 in 1897, to 439 in 1898, being an average of 29·26 per thousand. One-sixth of the total number of deaths occurred amongst young children, who here, as elsewhere in tropical countries, seem to die in large numbers, probably from ignorance and neglect on the part of their parents. It does not appear that there were any special causes for the larger mortality amongst the adults.

The deaths amongst the Europeans numbered four, including two cases of Blackwater fever. The rainy and unhealthy season for Europeans lasts for four months, July to October, but as business is then at a standstill, nearly all the Europeans leave the Colony for Europe, and this sensible arrangement reduces the mortality rate considerably. The natives suffer also from fever in the rainy season, and in addition, contract consumption and chest affections during the months of December and January when the winds are sometimes very cold.

There are great variations in the climate here. The thermometer in Bathurst sometimes varies 30 degrees in a day—68° to 98°—and it is always 20 degrees, or more, warmer up the river than near the sea coast. I believe the climate in Bathurst between July and October is as bad as the worst season on any part of the West Coast, but, fortunately, few Europeans are then

here. During the remainder of the year it is fairly healthy, but it is necessary always to be careful and remember you are on the West Coast of Africa.

The average rainfall is about 50 inches, which falls entirely between July and October, and for the rest of the year, except a few showers in May and June, there is a perfect drought. In December and the following months up to March the hot Harmattan wind blows from the East. In the interior this is very trying, coming as it does in hot blasts over miles of dry land or sand. In Bathurst it is fresher, as it blows across the water at the entrance of the river.

In April, the pleasantest month of the year in Bathurst, the sea breeze blows. In May the calm weather commences, being the precursor of the rainy season, when the days and nights, except during tornadoes, are perfectly airless.

Bathurst is a clean town, barely above high-water mark, but with wide streets and careful sanitary supervision, I believe it is as healthy as the natural surroundings will allow.

POLICE.

(*Armed Force.*)

There are no troops now stationed in Bathurst, but the police force consists of two European Officers and 100 men who are armed and drilled.

The force has also three seven-pound field-pieces, and is considered to be sufficiently trained and equipped to suppress any small disturbance that might occur.

The police force is kept entirely in Bathurst, with the exception of a few men at M'Carthy Island and other places in the Colony. The Protectorate is policed by the natives, and the men are designated "messengers."

They are vested with the authority and protection of a police-constable when wearing their badges, and are employed for summoning or arresting persons who may be wanted. The headmen and headchiefs give them their orders and badges, and the system is working satisfactorily.

A case occurred when one of these native messengers was assaulted in the execution of his duty, and the trial and imprisonment of the offender has had a salutary effect. An occasion presented itself for showing a little force in the Jolah country, and

GAMBIA, 1898.

fifty of the police who were sent on this mission acquitted themselves creditably. Otherwise peace and order prevailed everywhere, and the police force was only wanted for ordinary civil duties in the town of Bathurst.

GENERAL.

The trade of the Colony was unprecedented, and although with a single staple trade is naturally liable to great fluctuations, yet I consider that the improvement that has been effected in the administration of the Protectorate during the past few years diminishes the chances of any serious sudden decrease in the trade such as formerly often occurred owing to the little native wars that constantly, almost permanently, were going on.

The river Gambia, the best waterway in this part of Africa, must always attract trade to its banks; and the encouragement of traffic on the river is the object to be aimed at.

The little steamer, "Mansah Kilah," started four years ago to run up and down to M'Carthy Island every week, has fully justified this scheme. It is hoped that by next year a steamer will be running in connection with it right up to Yarbutenda; and this should lead to further traffic from the interior.

A depot and lodging house at Yarbutenda will be established, and I think will draw traders.

Factories or "depots" with wharves are increasing up the river. At Ballangar, 100 miles up, there are now three short wharves, at each of which quite recently three large steamers, over a thousand tons each, were lying at the same time taking in ground nuts. This cheapens freight. Steamers go up the river to load for an additional 2*s*. 6*d*. per ton, whereas it used to cost 20*s*. a ton to bring nuts to Bathurst in cutters. I think at last this magnificent waterway is being put to some use.

The social condition of the natives is, I hope, advancing.

Mahomedanism is increasing, and with it temperance and decency. It is pleasing to note that the women are sometimes averse to marrying drinking men, and more than one case has come to my knowledge where would-be suitors have become Mahomedans so as to gain a wife.

There have also been two or three cases where a woman has applied for a separation from a drunken husband and succeeded in her case. Judicial separations and divorces are more easily and cheaply managed amongst the natives in the Protectorate—but they are quite as effective—than they can be in civilized countries.

Christianity is not making any advance in the interior, and I fancy is remaining stationary in Bathurst, where fully half of the population are Mahomedans.

Several English men-of-war have lately visited and remained at Bathurst for some time. The facilities for landing and drilling, and the drier climate during the winter months are, I believe, considered to be beneficial to the crews.

The year 1898 was a record one for trade, and I am sure all the old-established merchants had prosperous seasons, which prosperity filtered through to all classes and gave general contentment.

I can close this report by happily being able to state that this year so far promises even to be better than the two last years which have been record ones.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,

Administrator.

26th April 1899.

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1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 300.

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REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 264.)

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1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar...	1898
277	Bahamas	,,
278	British Honduras	,,
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
280	Grenada	,,
281	St. Vincent	,,
282	Hong Kong	,,
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	,,
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	,,
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	,,
295	Malta	,,
296	Fiji	,,
297	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
298	Bahamas...	,,
299	Sierra Leone	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.

No. 300.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 264.)

ADMINISTRATOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Bathurst,

SIR, 20th March, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1899 with my Report on the same.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,

Administrator.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1899.

The Revenue of the Colony amounted to £46,840, which is the largest on record, and the Expenditure to £30,405; and thus the accumulated surplus of the Colony was increased by over £16,400, and on the 31st of December stood at £43,489 12*s.* 9*d.*

6790—800—9/1900 Wt. 24600 D & S—5

GAMBIA, 1899

2. The three following items, which indicate the trade and prosperity or otherwise of the Colony, all shew a further steady growth.

THE PROTECTORATE.

Year.	Amount.
	£
1896	1,666
1897	2,540
1898	3,165
1899	3,655

THE GOVERNMENT RIVER STEAMER.

1896	329
1897	612
1898	971
1899	1,174

EXPORT DUTY ON GROUND NUTS.

1896	3,930
1897	6,626
1898	10,693
1899	11,400

REVENUE.

3. The other seven items of usual Revenue made up the total for the year to £46,839 against £43,717 in the year 1898—an increase of a little over £3,100. There was an increase under every head of Revenue, except the Post Office, in which there was a falling off from £2,140 to £589, in part owing to the adoption of the penny postal rate, but mainly to be attributed to

the falling off in the demand for postage stamps by collectors, who, in the previous year, purchased a large quantity of the old issue and new issue on the change that was made in May, 1898, of the dies.

The Customs duties increased £2,550; the Port dues increased £543; and the interest on the surplus funds invested, £640.

EXPENDITURE.

4. The total Expenditure amounted to £30,404 compared with £29,035—an increase of about £1,400. In examining the details of expenditure, the principal excesses appear under the heading of Administration, owing to the increase in the salary of the Administrator, and Special Services—£2,097, in which is included £1,855 paid for quarters purchased for the Chief Magistrate and Colonial Surgeon. The other items remain about the same, except Public Works, on which the expenditure was curtailed, owing to the absence of the Colonial Engineer from Bathurst for four months, whilst he was engaged on the Anglo-French Boundary Commission.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

5. The total value of the imports amounted to £240,906, and of the exports to £241,936, of which about one-half of the imports came from the United Kingdom, whilst only about one-ninth went there.

The principal export—ground nuts—is nearly all sent to France, which received during the year three-fourths of the total exports.

The following summary shews the value of the imports and exports from and to the principal foreign countries:—

——	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
France	69,599	182,663
Germany	9,761	6,455
Denmark	—	5,654
Holland	—	10,508
United States	6,782	—

GAMBIA, 1899.

6. The value of the kola nuts imported from Sierra Leone amounted to £33,951—an increase of £12,312 on the previous year, but this is principally owing to the circumstance that in the year 1898 it was difficult to obtain kola nuts from the Sierra Leone Protectorate.

7. Owing to good rains for the cultivation of rice in the Gambia, the local crop was large, so the quantity of rice imported fell from 79,208 cwts. in 1898 to 35,662 cwts. in 1899, and a decrease in value of £22,172.

8. The value of the specie imported in 1895 was £13,432, and in 1899 £69,335, the aggregate for the five years being £197,574, whilst during the same period only £17,466 in specie was exported. Perhaps these figures are not absolutely correct, but it is indisputable that a very large amount of specie (silver coins) has been put in circulation during the last few years in the Gambia Protectorate, owing to the cash trade supplanting the old system of barter; and it is remarkable that the importation of merchandise has kept up as well. I hope this rather startling change in the system of trade will pass over without any serious inconvenience to the general commerce of the Colony.

9. The value of the ground nuts exported was returned to the Customs at £210,005—an increase of £9,696 on the previous year. This represented 34,353 tons—I believe the largest quantity ever shipped in a year.

Apparently there was a good find of beeswax, as the value of the export is given at £4,412 compared with £1,833 in the previous year.

10. The imports and exports show little variation, except in the large decrease in the shipments of rubber, due to the practical extinction of the rubber plants by the ignorant class of men who wander about rubber cutting in the bush. There are no rubber plantations or estates—all that is collected being the product of uncultivated plants or trees found in the forests.

11. It is hardly necessary to comment on all the different items of revenue and expenditure, or imports and exports, &c., suffice it to say that trade was good, and I hope the mercantile firms had a prosperous year, as well as the public chest.

12. The legislation of the year comprised an Ordinance consolidating several Tariff Ordinances, but leaving the rates of duty practically unchanged, with the ad valorem fixed as before, at five per cent.

An Ordinance was also passed authorising the preparation of a revised edition of the statutes, which work is now in the hands of the Chief Magistrate.

SAVINGS BANK.

13. The total balance in the savings bank on the 31st December amounted to £3,882, and the number of depositors was 203. Compared with the year 1895, an increase, which has been gradual and steady, is shewn in the amount of the deposits and the number of depositors, which then stood at £2,436 in the names of 138 depositors.

Efforts are being made by the Travelling Commissioners to induce the natives in the Protectorate to use the savings bank for their savings, instead of putting all their money in cattle, and I have heard of one man who has opened an account, but I know what a difficult task it is to persuade a Mandingo to change his habits.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

14. The Board of Health, which means the Town Council of Bathurst, had, at the commencement of the year, £248 to its credit. The rates yielded £10 more than in the previous year, but the surplus was reduced to £107 by the judicious expenditure of about £120 on new and additional lamps in the streets in Bathurst, which is now, in the principal streets, as well lighted as is possible with oil lamps. I believe the town of Bathurst, with its broad streets, concrete side walks, brick drains, and large square, will compare favourably with any other town on the West Coast of Africa.

15. The only incident that can be called exceptional during the year was the unusual length of the rainy season in Bathurst. The total rainfall (56 inches) was a little above the average, but was spread over five months instead of four, the heaviest fall in any 24 hours being 2·53 inches, whereas it is usual to have several falls of four and five inches, and now and then floods. The months of June and October, in which light rains generally occur, were exceptionally wet and trying. Apparently, the general health of the Colony was about the same. The rains increased the crops of rice, but as, of course, the rainfall in Bathurst differs from parts of the Protectorate far distant, I cannot say how it affected all the ground nuts grown at a distance, but those near Bathurst, in Kommbo, are better than usual.

16. A year that passed without any remarkable occurrence with peace and prosperity everywhere, and I hope happiness to all classes, is a difficult one to write about. I have, in the nine years I have served here, endeavoured to carry out some improvements, and the surplus fund now accumulated will be gradually spent on many long-talked of and desired public works, such as filling up the swamp at Half Die, Bathurst, which is about to be commenced. The clearing away of a bank at Kai Hai, about 140 miles up the river, also now being dealt with, will facilitate

GAMBIA, 1899.

the passage of larger steamers to McCarthy Island. Tramways and a steamer in the Upper River are under consideration, and with a continuance of the peace and prosperity now existing, this small Dependency will, I trust, continue to advance, as it has done within the last few years.

R. B. LLEWELYN,

Administrator.

20th March, 1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL.

No. 325.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 300.)

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
299	Sierra Leone	1899
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago	"
304	Straits Settlements	"
305	Gibraltar...	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia	1899–1900
312	St. Vincent	1899
313	Basutoland	"
314	Hong Kong	1899–1900
315	Southern Nigeria	"
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 325.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 300.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. C. DENTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Bathurst,
30th May, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, in manuscript, a copy of the Blue Book for the year 1900, together with my report on it.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,
Governor.

9372—800—6/1901 Wt 24600 D & S—5 A 2

GAMBIA, 1900.

REPORT ON GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

A.—The revenue for 1900 was £49,160, the largest ever collected in the Gambia, and the export of ground nuts, the staple crop, was also bigger than in any previous year, being 35,805 tons, valued at £221,841, and yielding an export duty of £11,835.

2. The following table shows the principal sources from which the revenue is derived and the amounts collected in each case during the years 1898, 1899 and 1900 :—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.
IMPORT DUTIES.	£	£	£
Ad valorem duty of 5 per cent.... ...	5,499	4,556	4,716
Wines	858	878	823
Spirits	3,283	6,122	6,404
Malt liquors	201	266	171
Tobacco	3,737	4,031	3,337
Oils, &c., &c.	883	921	711
Sugar	1,147	1,650	2,073
Kola nuts	4,511	4,904	6,992
Rice	1,989	897	1,406
Guns, &c., &c.	426	118	146
Powder	152	220	94
Salt...	286	157	347
Kerosine	89	118	162
Coffee	—	4	3

—	1898.	1899.	1900.
EXPORT DUTY.	£	£	£
Ground nuts	10,692	11,399	11,835
OTHER SOURCES.			
Government vessels	971	1,174	1,135
Protectorate	3,165	3,655	3,288
Interest on surplus funds invested ...	359	998	1,498

3. The total Customs revenue was:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£
Import duties	23,069	24,851	27,399
Export duty	10,692	11,399	11,835

4. The most noteworthy conclusions to be gathered from these figures are the steady rise in the import trade of the Colony and the large increase in the quantity of kola nuts and sugar imported.

5. The net increases in the total revenue for the years given before are:—

1897–1898.	1898–1899.	1899–1900.
£	£	£
7,302	122	2,321

EXPENDITURE.

6. The expenditure for 1900 was £29,817, as against £30,404 in 1899 and £29,035 in 1898, and calls for little comment. The Special Services were contribution to Patriotic War Fund, £500, and expenses connected with the Yellow Fever Epidemic, £503 5*s*. 6*d*.

B.—TAXATION.

7. No increase of any kind was made to taxation during the year under report.

C.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

8. The credit balance brought forward to the 1901 account was £63,302, and of this amount £43,781 is invested in different Colonial Government Securities.

D.—PUBLIC DEBT.

9. There is no public debt.

F.—MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL BOARDS, &C., &C.

10. The only institution of at all a municipal character is the Board of Health, which may be said to control the affairs of the town of Bathurst. It consists of a Board of five members, of which the Colonial Surgeon is Chairman, and had at its disposal, subject to the approval of the Administrator, a revenue of £801, made up as follows:—

	£
Local rates on house property, 3 per cent. on annual value	529
Slaughter-house fees	72
Government grant (nominally)	200
	£801

The amount actually expended by the Board was, however, £938, the additional £137 being found from general revenue.

11. The following shows the actual expenditure for the past three years and the sources from which the revenue was derived :—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£
Local rates on house property ...	518	528	529
Slaughter-house fees	76	79	72
Government grant	93	332	337
Total	687	939	938

12. The following amounts were expended under the direction of the Board of Education for the past three years :—

1898.	1899.	1900
£	£	£
434	408	416

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

13. The values of the imports for the past five years exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1896	91,062
1897	139,812
1898	187,062
1899	171,572
1900	194,408

GAMBIA, 1900.

14. The following table gives a comparison of the value of the principal articles for the past three years :—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£
Bread	1,371	1,245	1,353
Flour	1,350	1,271	1,257
Kola nuts	21,638	33,951	39,937
Provisions	2,384	2,686	2,401
Rice...	38,222	16,050	25,189
Salt	996	479	1,185
Sugar	2,582	3,717	3,997
Spirits—			
Quantity...	Gallons. 37,567	Gallons. 40,220	Gallons. 19,099
Value	£ 3,718	£ 4,325	£ 2,648
Wines—			
Quantity...	Gallons. 14,308	Gallons. 18,839	Gallons 13,129
Value	£ 1,911	£ 2,431	£ 1,778
Wood and timber	1,692	1,220	1,332
Wearing apparel	1,367	1,845	1,459
Empty bags	2,503	3,266	2,360
Cotton goods	60,786	51,460	61,263
Cutlery	1,101	1,250	1,083
Hardware	4,669	5,924	4,591
Beads	1,773	2,105	2,558
Haberdashery	3,730	4,179	5,212
Oil (ground nut)	2,303	2,631	2,726
Soap	1,694	1,663	3,025
Tobacco (unmanufactured) ...	6,991	4,085	4,517
Specie	59,030	69,335	83,251

EXPORTS.

15. The value of the principal articles of export for the past three years was as given in the following table :—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£
Kola nuts	1,345	2,199	2,280
Ground nuts	200,308	210,205	221,841
Palm kernels	919	953	1,020
Rubber	30,467	9,150	10,216
Wax	1,832	4,411	922
Hides	311	378	368
Empty packages	654	820	1,212

16. The value of the total exports from 1896 to 1900 inclusive, amounted year by year to :—

Year.	Amount.
	£
1896 ...	116,438
1897 ...	163,622
1898 ...	245,110
1899 ...	234,497
1900 ...	240,705

B.—MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

17. There are no mines in the Colony or the Protectorate, and the manufactures are confined to a little native pottery and the weaving of native cloths from home-grown cotton.

18. A considerable number of the inhabitants of Bathurst and of places along the sea coast towards Gunjur, and in the neighbourhood of Barra, are employed in fishing, and a large quantity of fish is taken, some of which is consumed as food, the remainder being dried and sent up the river.

C.—Agricultural Industries and Botanical Station.

19. The cultivation of the ground nut is the principal agricultural industry, but foodstuffs, such as cassada, millet, maize, rice, sweet potatoes, and yams, are grown to some extent, but not in sufficient quantities to provide for the wants of the inhabitants of the country during the whole year. This necessitates the purchase by the people of rice, which is an important article of import in the Colony, as will be gathered from the following figures :—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Rice	80,956	35,900	53,641

The duty on rice is 6*d.* per cwt.

20. A Botanical Station was established in 1894, but it had not been persevered with for some time before my arrival in the Colony, and is in anything but a satisfactory condition. So far as I am able to judge it has had no effect on the development of minor industries.

II.—LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LANDS.

21. No grants of land were issued during the year under report. The value of land is low, but, as it seldom or ever changes hands by purchase, it is impossible to give a definite price for it. The rent charged by the Government for lands in British Combo is at the rate of 2*s.* per acre.

E.—Shipping.

22. There was a falling-off in the total tonnage, amounting to 23,000 tons. This was due to the fact that during the epidemic of yellow fever the mail steamers outward did not make regular calls at Bathurst, owing to the fact that the other West African ports placed all vessels arriving from the Gambia in quarantine.

23. The following tables may be of interest in this connection :—

Return showing Tonnage and Nationality of Steamers and Sailing Vessels Inwards and Outwards during the Years 1899 and 1900.

Nationality of Vessels.	1899.			1900.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
British	210,534	156	210,690	197,935	164	198,099
French	31,864	3,018	34,882	27,155	3,251	30,406
German	9,170	—	9,170	5,471	—	5,471
Belgian	2,924	—	2,924	1,000	—	1,000
Russian	8,418	—	8,418	1,548	—	1,548
American	—	4,414	4,414	—	2,200	2,200
Norwegian ...	6,504	—	6,504	3,952	—	3,952
Italian	5,874	—	5,874	3,792	—	3,792
Greek	—	–	—	8,682	—	8,682
Swedish	—	—	—	1,622	—	1,622
Spanish	—	—	—	2,396	—	2,396
Portuguese ...	—	1,759	1,759	—	2,101	2,101
Total... ...	275,238	9,347	284,635	253,553	7,716	261,269

Return showing total Shipping Inwards and Outwards for the last five years.

Years.	British Tons.	Foreign Tons.	Total Tons.
1896...	151,987	79,638	231,625
1897...	164,939	93,459	258,398
1898...	225,385	102,760	328,145
1899...	210,690	73,945	284,635
1900...	198,099	63,170	261,269
Total	951,100	412,972	1,364,072

III.—LEGISLATION.

24. Eight Ordinances were passed during the year 1900. No. 2, entitled "An Ordinance to recognise and enforce the title of Trustees and Assignees under the Bankrupt or Insolvent Laws of the United Kingdom in this Colony and Protectorate," is an important measure, the scope and intention of which is fully explained by the title. No. 5, "An Ordinance to regulate the granting of Patents for Inventions." No. 6, "An Ordinance providing for the Registration of Trade Marks," will no doubt be beneficial in the future, but at present there is little need for the provisions they contain.

IV.—EDUCATION.

A.—PRIMARY.

25. There are five primary schools in Bathurst and one at McCarthy Island. The total number of pupils on the rolls is 861, the average attendance being 675. All these schools are under the management of the different religious bodies who, again, are subject to the Board of Education. Grants-in-aid, based on capitation proficiency in proportion to educational results tested by examination, and a capitation grant in proportion to the average attendance at the schools, are given by the Government. The schools are supposed to be examined annually by the Inspector, Mr. Marke, who is also Inspector of Schools in Sierra Leone; but in consequence of this Colony being in quarantine for many months he was unable to visit the Gambia in 1900, and no examination could, therefore, be held. The grants calculated on the results obtained in 1899 were, however, paid to the Managers of Schools.

B.—SECONDARY EDUCATION.

26. There was no secondary school in the Gambia during the year 1900.

C.—INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

27. Unfortunately schools of this nature are not to be found here. Their want is much felt, and it is to be hoped that it may be found possible to establish an Industrial and Technical School before long.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A.—HOSPITAL.

28. There are two hospitals in the Colony, the Victoria (Colonial) Hospital and the Contagious Diseases Hospital. The former has accommodation for 22 male and 12 female patients; and at the latter, which is principally used for persons suffering from small-pox, 10 persons can be received.

29. The building used for male patients at the Colonial hospital is old and its arrangements inconvenient; that for females is a bungalow which has been condemned and will be destroyed as soon as the new hospital for females, which is in course of erection, is completed.

B. C. AND D.

30. There are no asylums, poor-houses, or reformatories.

E.—SAVINGS BANK.

31. The Government Savings Bank is under the management of the Treasurer. The total amount of deposits on the 31st December last was £4,477. The deposits during 1900 totalled £1,856, whilst £2,278 was withdrawn from the bank.

32. The following figures show the total amounts remaining in the bank to the credit of the depositors at the end of each of the three years given :—

1898.	1899.	1900.
£ 3,882	£ 5,082	£ 4,477

33. The interest paid by the Government to depositors is at the rate of 2½ per cent., and amounted to £152 in 1898, £198 in 1899, and £186 in 1900.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

A.—POLICE.

34. The local police force consists of a superintendent, assistant superintendent, sergeant-major, quarter-master-sergeant, three first class sergeants, six second class sergeants, one armourer, two lance corporals, 18 first class constables, 26 second class constables, and 40 third class constables. The total expenditure on the force for the year 1900 was £4,031. The men are trained to the use of arms, and are a semi-military force, armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine. They also have three 7-pounder R.M.L guns.

B.—PRISONS.

35. The only prison in the Colony is at Bathurst, and has accommodation for 31 male prisoners and 7 female prisoners. It is not entirely on the separate system as there are four associated wards for male prisoners and two for female prisoners.

36. The total cost of the prison for 1900 was £680 as compared with £796 in 1899 and £758 in 1898.

37. The prison buildings are old, but are well kept and in good repair. It is, however, proposed to build a new prison at an early date, which is to be constructed on modern principles.

C.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

38. There were only five cases committed for trial before the Supreme Court, and convictions were obtained in only two of these. One hundred and forty persons in all were charged with offences under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance of 1897; of these 92 were convicted—66 being fined, 8 suffering imprisonment in lieu of a fine, 14 being peremptorily imprisoned, and 4 being bound over with sureties to keep the peace. No whipping was inflicted during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A.—POPULATION.

39. The population does not appear from the Blue Books to have varied during the past four years.

40. The following table gives the birth and death rates per thousand for the past three years :—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1898	22·6	29·2
1899	24·0	28·6
1900	23·5	28·7

B.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

41. Except for an epidemic of yellow fever which occurred during the months of June, July, and August, the general health of the community was good. The total number of deaths was 431, as against 429 in 1899, and 439 in 1898. The deaths amongst the European section of the community were 9, or at the rate of 140 per thousand. Of these six were due to yellow fever, one to billious remittent fever, one to dysentery, and one to abscess of the brain.

C.—SANITATION.

42. Only in Bathurst is it possible to enforce any sanitary measures, and even there little is done. There is, however, a Board of Health, which has at its disposal an income of about £800 a year, and out of this sum provides for the scavenging of the town, the cleaning of the streets, &c., and the repair of the roads. Very little attention is paid to other more important matters, such as the disposal of the sewage.

IX.—CLIMATE.

1. RAINFALL.

43. Only 43·38 inches fell during 1900, the average for the three years being 49·39 inches.

2. TEMPERATURE.

44. The average maximum temperature in the shade at 3 p.m. was 85 degrees., whilst the average minimum at 7 a.m. was 68 degrees. No record is kept of the direction and force of the wind.

X.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

45. There are no inland services of this nature. Mails are, however, received from and forwarded to Liverpool once a fortnight, and there is a fortnightly postal communication with Sierra Leone and the other places on the West Coast. Bathurst is connected by cable with St. Vincent, Cape De Verde, and with Sierra Leone, and is thus in direct telegraphic communication with Europe on the one side and Cape Town on the other. Telephones have not yet been introduced into the Colony.

XI.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

A.—REGULAR FORCES. B.—MILITIA. C.—VOLUNTEERS.

46. During the year 1900, none of these Forces were to be found in the Gambia, but the Police Force may be termed a semi-military Force. (*d*) Its strength and the manner in which it is armed have been dealt with in paragraph 34 of this report, and I have only to add that the men are enlisted for five years and are paid as follows :—

	s.	*d.*
1st class Constables	2	0
2nd class Constables	1	9
3rd class Constables	1	6

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

47. The year was marked by one very tragic event—the murder of Mr. Sitwell and Mr. Silva, Travelling Commissoners, six constables, and a Native Chief called Mansah Kotah, at Sankandi, in Kiang, on the 14th June. The history of this sad occurrence is shortly as follows :—A dispute had arisen between the inhabitants of Sankandi and those of a town called Batelling, of which Mansah Kotah was the Alkadi, on the subject of the ownership

of some rice fields lying between the two places. As Mr. Silva had only recently assumed his duties, Mr. Sitwell, who had considerable experience in the Protectorate, was sent with him to enquire into the dispute and to endeavour to bring about a better understanding between the Sankandi people and those of Mansah Kotah. On arrival at Sankandi the Commissioners proceeded into the town, the people having refused to accept Mr. Sitwell's proposal to meet him outside and discuss matters. When they reached the usual meeting place the Commissioners found no one there, but after a little delay the headman of Sankandi, Dari Bana Dabu, appeared alone, driving some goats. As he had shown himself to be very dissaffected to the Government, Mr. Sitwell left the native huts where he and his party had placed themselves and endeavoured to arrest him. He resisted and called upon his people, who it was suddenly discovered were lying in ambush amongst some houses close by, to fire, which they did, with the fatal results I have related. Further particulars than these it is impossible to give with any accuracy.

48. Unfortunately it was for some little time difficult to punish the offenders, and the ringleaders escaped into French Territory. This gave rise to a strong spirit of opposition to constituted authority throughout the Protectorate, and it was found necessary in the early part of the present year to organise an expedition against some of the towns adjacent to Sankandi, especially one named Dumbutu. The Expedition, however, very soon brought about the desired result, and complete quiet is now to be found everywhere within the sphere of British influence.

49. In October, Sir Robert Llewelyn, who had been Administrator of the Gambia since 1891, was promoted to the government of the Windward Islands. He was succeeded at the Gambia by Sir George Denton, Colonial Secretary of Lagos.

50. The trade of the Gambia depends almost entirely upon the ground nut crop, now that the rubber industry has failed to such a great extent. This is almost entirely dependent on the rainfall, and is therefore a very uncertain staple upon which to rely. In 1900 over 35,000 tons were exported, but it is doubtful if the total for the current year will reach 25,000 tons. It is to be regretted that no other product is at present cultivated which would take the place of the ground nut in bad years.

51. As in the other West African Colonies, though perhaps not to so great an extent, the climate is unsuited to Europeans, and it is generally admitted that white labour would be useless; development, therefore, can only be arrived at through the natives of the country.

52. The rates of wages are high, 1*s.* being the ordinary daily pay of labourers; artisans are very scarce, and those there are

GAMBIA, 1900

are but indifferent workmen, who demand and receive a far higher wage than their skill entitles them to. As far as my experience goes the cost of living is far in excess of what it is in Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, or Lagos, and this I understand applies to both Europeans and natives. For instance—yams, which are a great article of food amongst the natives, cost at least four or five times as much in Bathurst as they do in Lagos, and for a case of Sauerbrunnen (soda water), which can be obtained in Lagos for 15*s*., 25*s*. is paid here.

53. The social condition of the people of the country is on the whole prosperous. They seem to be contented and happy, but are not a bit more inclined to be industrious than their brother negroes further down the coast.

54. The general condition of the Colony and Protectorate is satisfactory, and it has decidedly advanced during the past five years. Revenue, imports, and exports, have increased very materially, the total trade for 1900 being fully 100 per cent. in excess of what it was in 1896.

GEORGE C. DENTON.

30th May, 1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

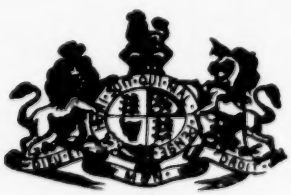
No. 355.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 325.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1902.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1900
336	British New Guinea	1899–1900
337	Leeward Islands...	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
339	British Honduras	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900–1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda...	1901

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 355.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 325.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. C. DENTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Bathurst, 18th May, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward under separate cover a copy (in manuscript) of the Blue Book for 1901.

2. I also transmit an interesting report on the Blue Book by Mr. H. M. B. Griffith, the officer in charge of the secretariat.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.

11618—875—4/1902 Wt 28616 D & S—5

GAMBIA, 1901.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1901.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The total revenue for the year amounted to £43,726, being a decrease of £5,435 on that of the previous year.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1900 and 1901, with the several increases or decreases:—

Head of Revenue.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	39,235	33,127	—	6,108
Port dues	805	746	—	59
Licences, excise, &c.	558	785	227	—
Fees of court, &c.	704	836	—	132
Post office...	460	770	304	—
Sale of Government property ...	445	463	18	—
Government vessels	1,136	521	—	614
Interest	1,498	1,991	493	—
Protectorate	3,288	3,679	391	—
Miscellaneous receipts	951	808	—	143
Land sales...	80	—	—	80
Total	49,160	43,726	1,433	7,136

3. The increases were due to (1) fines imposed on native chiefs connected with the disturbances in the early part of the year; (2) to increased sales of stamps to dealers and collectors who anticipated a new issue; and (3) to the extension of the Hut Tax Ordinance to new districts in the Protectorate.

4. The decreases were due under (1) Customs, to decreased importations following a reduction in the ground-nut crop output owing to light rains in the season; and (2) to the Government steamer being required for duty with the Expeditionary Force which arrived in the Colony early in the year, and, therefore, unavailable for the carriage of passengers and freight up and down the river.

5. The expenditure for the year amounted to £48,518, being an increase of £18,700 on that of the previous year.

6. The following return shows the items of expenditure for the two years:—

Head of Expenditure.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	1,031	1,034	4	—
Governor	2,455	3,258	803	—
Protectorate	2,300	3,116	816	—
Printing department	188	202	14	—
Treasury	1,034	978	—	57
Customs...	1,923	1,882	—	41
Post Office	370	450	80	—
Audit department	345	413	68	—
Legal	1,406	1,393	—	13
Educational	417	504	87	—
Police	4,031	4,585	553	—
Prisons	680	803	122	—
Medical	1,071	1,214	143	—
Hospitals, &c.	592	809	217	—
Manager of Kommbo	151	150	—	1
Government vessels	1,580	1,777	197	—
Charitable	89	87	—	2
Transport	575	1,034	458	—
Miscellaneous	1,658	1,752	94	—
Drawbacks	29	118	89	—
Colonial engineer's department ...	983	1,117	134	—
Agriculture	238	146	—	94
Public works recurrent	2,528	3,065	537	—
„ extraordinary	2,910	4,806	1,895	—
Special services...	1,094	13,826	12,733	—
Native affairs	139	—	—	139
Total	29,818	48,518	19,045	345

GAMBIA, 1901.

7. The increases which are mainly under Special Services are due (1) to the cost of the expedition in the first part of the year; (2) to the purchase of a house as a Police Station; and (3) to the cost of raising in the Colony a company of the West African Frontier Force.

8. The following return shows the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897	39,415	27,059
1898	46,718	29,035
1899	46,840	30,405
1900	49,161	29,818
1901	43,726	48,518

B.—TAXATION.

9. There was no increase of taxation during the year.

C.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

10. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1901, was £58,115. Of this, the sum of £43,857 was invested in various Colonial Government securities.

D.—PUBLIC DEBT.

11. The Colony has no public debt.

E.—MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL BOARDS, &C.

12. The only Board of this nature in the Colony is the Board of Health, which is responsible for the sanitary condition of the town of Bathurst. It consists of the Colonial surgeon, who is president, the Colonial engineer, and four other members appointed by the Governor. Its revenue is derived from (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property, 3 per cent.; (2) slaughter-house fees; and (3) by an annual grant from the Government. The following revenue was received under these three heads during the year:—

	£
Local rates...	527
Slaughter-house fees	96
Grant-in-Aid	200
Total ...	823

The total expenditure for the same period amounted to £870, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of £47, which will be defrayed from the receipts for the current year.

13. The following figures show the receipts and expenditure of the Board for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897	670	622
1898	687	678
*1899	939	948
*1900	938	938
1901	823	870

* In these years additional grants of £132 and £137 were made to the Board by the Government.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—Imports and Exports.

14. The total value of the imports for the year amounted to £252,646, as compared with £277,659 in 1900, a decrease of £25,013, which was mainly under cotton goods, and due (1) to smaller importations, owing to the mercantile houses having large stocks on hand from the previous year; and (2) to the failure of the ground crop, which considerably reduced the purchasing power of the natives. Kola nuts shared with cotton goods the cause of the falling off in the value of the imports, for whereas the value of kola nuts imported in 1900 amounted to £39,937, the quantity imported in 1901 exceeded that imported during 1900 by 19,422 lbs., but was only valued at £21,008, a decrease on the value of 1900 of £18,929.

15. There was a considerable increase in the importations of rice owing to the destruction of the local crops by locusts. The following figures show the difference between 1900 and 1901:—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt.	£
1900	63,642	25,191
1901	86,986	38,359

GAMBIA, 1901.

16. The following return gives the principal articles of import in 1900 and 1901:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton goods	3,286	2,034	61,263	44,262	—	17,001
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Tobacco ...	208,279	255,285	4,768	6,505	1,737	—
Kola nuts ...	824,399	843,822	39,937	21,008	—	18,929
	Gals.	Gals.				
Spirits ...	21,670	34,967	3,386	4,531	1,145	—
Wine ...	13,129	17,689	1,779	2,314	535	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Sugar ...	4,914	3,313	3,997	2,903	—	1,094
	Tons.	Tons.				
Salt	1,388	1,818	1,186	1,529	343	—
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder...	126	219	339	360	21	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Rice	53,642	86,986	25,191	38,539	13,348	—

17. The values of the imports for the last five years were as under:—

Year.	Specie.	Other Articles.	Total.
	£	£	£
1897	36,515	139,812	176,327
1898	59,030	187,062	246,092
1899	69,335	171,572	240,907
1900	83,251	194,408	277,659
1901	67,552	185,095	252,647

Exports.

18. The total value of the exports for the year amounted to £233,667, as compared with £281,976 in the previous year. This decrease was almost entirely brought about by the failure of the ground-nut crop due to the failure of the rains. The crop yielded about 10,000 tons, of the value of about £50,000, less than it did in the preceding year.

19. The following return shows the principal articles of export for the years 1900 and 1901:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts	35,805	25,750	221,841	172,405	—	49,436
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Rubber ...	125,446	146,573	10,217	8,963	—	1,254
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels	159	153	1,021	971	—	50
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Wax... ...	21,996	63,898	923	2,806	1,883	—
Hides ...	1,651	2,148	369	475	106	—

20. The values of the exports for the last five years were as under:—

Year.	Specie.	Other Articles.	Total.
	£	£	£
1897	2,272	163,622	165,894
1898	2,722	245,110	247,832
1899	7,439	234,497	241,936
1900	41,271	240,705	281,976
1901	39,212	194,455	233,667

B.—MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

21. There are no mines in the Colony. In view of the recent development of the gold mining industry on the Gold Coast, it may be worth recording that a few years ago an individual in Government employ took samples of rock from one of the districts in this Colony to England. He afterwards reported that on examination the samples in question showed a richness of gold equal to the best mines in South Africa, and immediately endeavoured to float a company.

22. With a view to ascertaining what truth there was in the statement, the Government sent home samples of rock from the same district, with the result that the assay showed them to contain 2 dwts. of gold to the ton. It is hardly necessary to add that the Gambia Goldfields Corporation has not yet come before the public.

23. The only manufactures in the Colony are a small quantity of native pottery and narrow strips of cloth called "Bandy-cloths," which, when sewed together, are called "pagns," and make handsome cloths much prized by the natives.

24. A considerable number of people at Bathurst and on the sea coast both northwards and to the south are engaged in fishing. Large quantities are caught, and what is not immediately consumed is dried and taken up the river in the dry season and exchanged for corn, rice, etc.

C.—AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

25. The cultivation of ground-nuts is the principal industry throughout the Colony. Large crops of cassada, maize, and rice are also grown, but not in sufficient quantities to supply the wants of the people all the year round. The local-grown rice is much preferred by the natives, and if put on the market it is believed that it would command a much higher price than the Rangoon rice, large quantities of which are annually imported, but, as in many other respects in this Colony, the question of labour is the great difficulty. The following figures give the importations of rice for the last five years:—

1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Cwt. 29,426	Cwt. 80,956	Cwt. 35,900	Cwt. 53,642	Cwt. 86,986

Sweet potatoes are grown to a limited extent, and when in season large quantities of oranges and limes can be obtained. The former, grown in the Kommbo district, about 8 miles from Bathurst, are well known for their excellence.

26. A point not without interest in a place like the Gambia is that there is hardly a European resident who, if he has a garden attached to his house, does not grow English vegetables sufficient to supply himself and his less fortunate friends for at least six months in the year, viz., from November to April. With ordinary care, cabbages, carrots, turnips, kohl rabi, lettuces, beetroot, French beans, cress, and radishes can be grown most successfully; indeed, some of the French residents, who have the best gardens, are sufficiently enterprising to grow cauliflowers and celery.

27. A botanic station was established in 1894, but it cannot be said to have been successful in the development of minor industries. It is extremely doubtful whether the site selected was a suitable one, and it is in contemplation to remove it at an early date to a more favourable locality. The present station has, however, assisted in the distribution of many orange and lime trees, and suckers of the Canary banana; but without a supervising eye it has been difficult to get the natives to give the necessary attention to the young orange and lime trees, so that the majority of them have died during their first dry season.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

28. A Public Lands Ordinance was passed during the year, but no grants of land were made under it.

29. It has been difficult to obtain reliable information, but the value of land in the Colony is low.

E.—Shipping.

30. The total tonnage for the year was 285,071 tons, being an increase on that of last year of 23,802 tons.

31. As in 1900, the decrease was due to an outbreak of yellow fever in the Colony which prevented steamers from calling here, so the increase in 1901 is due to Bathurst having been a clean port throughout the year.

32. The following return gives the total shipping for the last two years:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1900.			1901.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
British	197,935	164	198,099	220,016	82	220,098
French	27,155	3,251	30,406	29,433	3,374	32,807
German	5,471	—	5,471	5,867	—	5,867

E.—Shipping—cont.

Nationality of Vessels.	1900.			1901.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
Belgian	1,000	—	1,000	—	—	—
Russian	1,548	—	1,548	3,868	—	3,868
American	—	2,200	2,200	—	4,459	4,459
Norwegian ...	3,952	—	3,952	3,880	—	3,880
Italian	3,792	—	3,792	—	—	—
Austrian	—	—	—	5,408	1,602	7,010
Greek	8,682	—	8,682	—	—	—
Swedish	1,622	—	1,622	—	—	—
Dutch	—	—	—	2,306	—	2,306
Danish	—	—	—	1,883	—	1,883
Spanish	2,396	—	2,396	—	—	—
Portuguese ...	—	2,101	2,101	—	2,893	2,893
Total... ...	253,553	7,716	261,269	272,661	12,410	285,071

33. The total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years was as under:—

Years.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1897...	164,939	93,459	258,398
1898...	225,385	102,760	328,145
1899...	210,690	73,945	284,635
1900...	198,099	63,170	261,269
1901...	220,098	64,973	285,071
Total	1,019,211	398,307	1,417,518

III.—LEGISLATION.

34. Nineteen ordinances were passed during the year, the more important being No. 3, "The Political Prisoners (Detention and Deportation) Ordinance, 1901," which conferred on the Governor power to detain and deport sundry persons who had been privy to the murders of the two Travelling Commissioners in the previous year, and had subsequently been guilty of various acts of an insurrectionary nature. Ordinance No. 9, entitled "The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance, 1901," which re-imposes the requirement that jurors must be able to read and write English, it having been found by experience that former jurors, although understanding "Pigeon English," were quite incapable of following the evidence of educated witnesses or the addresses of counsel, or the summing up of the judge. It further introduces a property qualification, but at a greatly reduced rate, ownership being reduced from £30 to £7, and that of occupation from £40 to £10. Ordinance No. 10, "The Public Lands (Acquisition) Ordinance, 1901," vesting in the Governor the power of granting lands or of acquiring the same for public purposes. Ordinance No. 11, "The Sales by Auction Ordinance," which brings the law more into conformity with modern requirements, experience having shown the old law of 1865 to be seriously defective in its control over the proceedings of auctioneers. Ordinance No. 13, "The Hospitals and Dispensaries Ordinance, 1901," which was found necessary in view of the fact that the Gambia was without any ordinance governing hospitals, etc. Ordinance No. 14, "The Prevention of Contagious Diseases Ordinance, 1901," which brought into force regulations more in accordance with the principles laid down at the Venice Conference.

IV.—EDUCATION.

35. There are five primary schools in Bathurst, and one at McCarthy Island, all of which may be classed as "Assisted Schools." They are established by and are under the management of various religious denominations (Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan), receiving grants-in-aid from the Government in proportion to educational results. The number of children on the school rolls is 879, the average attendance being 705. The amount of grant-in-aid earned during the year was £458.

36. Hitherto the Gambia has shared with Sierra Leone the services of an Inspector of Schools, but owing to the arrangement working unsatisfactorily, and for other reasons, the services of the Inspector, so far as Gambia was concerned, were terminated at the close of the year, other arrangements being made for the future examination of the schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

37. During the year a secondary school was established by the Wesleyan Missionary Society, which has an average attendance of about 12 scholars.

C.—INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

38. There are no schools of this nature in the Colony. During the year, however, the Wesleyan Missionary Society submitted a scheme for the establishment of an Industrial School at Bathurst. The proposals were, that, in consideration of a Government grant to the society of £300 per annum, the society would provide a workshop with suitable tools for giving practical instruction in carpentry, masonry, and blacksmithing, and additional trades if necessary, to pupils, irrespective of religious denominations. The society also undertook to provide the necessary staff with a European instructor, who would have charge of the school. The scheme was accepted by the Government and efforts were made to open the school during the year, but the difficulty was to secure the services of a suitable instructor. It is hoped, however, that before the close of 1902 this difficulty will have been overcome and the school established. There is no doubt that such a school is much required and will prove of inestimable value to the Colony which possesses few competent workmen, although the rate of wage paid should entitle employers to skilled mechanics.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A.—HOSPITALS.

39. There are two Government hospitals in the Colony, a general hospital and a contagious diseases hospital. The former has accommodation for 34 patients, and the latter accommodation for 10 patients.

40. The general hospital is an old building, but a large sum has been voted towards enlarging it and putting it into a thorough state of repair, which work, it is hoped, will be completed during 1902.

41. A new bungalow for the female patients is being erected near to the main building, and, it is hoped, will be ready for occupation in 1902.

42. The total number of in-patients at the hospital during the year were 598, and of out-patients, 4,010; an increase of 377 and 2,270 on the numbers for the previous year. The women

and children, about 250 in number, belonging to the Central African Regiment, who were quartered here during the early part of the year, and the detachment of the West India Regiment, stationed here from April to the close of the year, are largely responsible for this increase.

43. Owing to the appointment of a Protectorate Medical Officer it was found possible towards the close of the year to establish a dispensary at McCarthy Island, a station 150 miles up the river. As soon as the natives realise its benefits there is no doubt that they will gladly avail themselves of it.

B. C. AND D.

44. There are no asylums, poor houses or reformatories in the Colony. Any lunatics are sent to the Kissy Asylum at Sierra Leone.

E.—SAVINGS BANKS.

45. There is only one savings bank in the Colony. The tota' amount on deposit on the 31st December, 1901, was £5,019 for 238 depositors. The amount deposited during the year was £2,639, and the amount withdrawn £1,912.

46. The savings bank is, I am afraid, made use of by the depositors more as a place for the safe keeping of their money than with any idea of thrift, it being quite a common practice for clerks to deposit their salaries at the end of the month and to draw the money out the following month in small sums as they require it to meet their housekeeping expenses. The advantages of the bank have been frequently explained to the chiefs in the Protectorate, but only one man could be induced to open an account. This he did by depositing ten shillings, but at the end of six weeks he asked for the money to be returned for him to see, as he was afraid the Treasury officers might have "chopped" it. He did not continue his account.

47. There are thirty-three Friendly Societies registered in the Colony, having a total sum of £589 standing to their credit. The majority of them give relief and assistance to members in case of sickness or death, and in their way are of much good.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

A.—POLICE.

48. The Police Force consists of a superintendent, an assistant-superintendent, both Europeans, and 100 of other ranks. The men are trained to the use of arms, and may be regarded as a semi-military force. They are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines and have 3 seven-pounder R.M.L. guns. A portion of the force is stationed at McCarthy Island and other places in the Protectorate, leaving about 75 men available for duty in Bathurst. The expenditure of the Force for 1900 was £4,584.

B.—PRISONS.

49. There is only one prison in the Colony and that is at Bathurst, the capital. It has accommodation for 38 prisoners, 31 male and 7 female. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 14. There were no escapes or deaths in the prison during the year, nor were there any floggings.

50. The present buildings are very old, but are kept in an excellent state of repair. It has long been in contemplation to build a new gaol but the work has not yet been begun, nor would it for the moment appear to be necessary, looking to the large expenditure which would be involved. The present prison with its small number of inmates answers its purpose very well.

51. The total cost of the prison during the year was £803, as compared with £680 in 1900.

C.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

52. There was apparently a considerable increase in crime during the year judging by the fact that there were 361 persons charged with offences in 1901, as compared with 140 in 1900. The increase may, however, be attributed to greater activity on the part of the police.

53. The principal event in the criminal proceedings of the year was undoubtedly the trial of three men for the murder of the two Travelling Commissioners at Sankandi, in the previous year. The charge was fully proved against the accused, who paid the full penalty demanded by law.

54. In the Supreme Court 9 cases were tried, convictions being obtained in 7 of the cases. In the Police Court the number of convictions was 260 and acquittals 88. The convictions were mainly for "committing nuisance in public."

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

55. A Census was taken in the Colony on the 1st of April, with the following results:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
7,383	6,073	13,456

a total decrease of 810 as compared with the Census taken in 1891.

56. A Census of the Protectorate was also taken this year for the first time, with the following result:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
36,552	40,396	76,948

This return can only be regarded as approximate, as many of the natives, being under the impression that the numbering of the people meant the imposing of a poll tax, ran across the boundary to French territory. Allowing for these absentees, I think that the population of the Protectorate may fairly be estimated at 90,000.

57. The actual returns show a total population of 90,404 for the Colony and Protectorate. There were 348 births and 380 deaths; of the latter, 4 were Europeans—2 official and 2 non-official. The death rate for the year was very favourable compared with 1900, when the total number of deaths was 431, of which 9 were Europeans.

B.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

58. The general health of the Colony was good during the year.

C.—SANITATION.

59. Only in Bathurst are any sanitary measures attempted. In the cleanliness of the streets, drains, and compounds, this town compares most favourably with others on the West Coast of Africa. The work is carried out, under the Board of Health, by an Inspector of Nuisances and several gangs of scavengers

who go round daily, making house to house collections of refuse and rubbish which are carted outside the town, and burnt. Many of the streets and drains are in a far from perfect condition. The matter, however, is receiving attention, and, so soon as a scheme of drainage has been formulated and sanctioned, it is hoped that there will be a marked improvement in this direction.

60. During the year, Dr. Everett Dutton, from the Liverpool Tropical School, arrived in the Colony with a view to making a survey of the town and discovering the breeding places of the mosquitoes. Although he arrived rather too late in the season to find the mosquitoes in perfection, innumerable larvæ (anopheles and culex) were discovered in the many old boats and canoes lying along the beach in front of the main street, also in the shallow uncemented brick drains and in the ordinary grass-grown ditches or drains which are still found in the town. Perhaps one of the worst of the latter begins in Government House grounds, and runs along at the back of the hospital into some low-lying land. Collections of old pots, pans, etc., were also found to be favourable breeding places of the anopheles, and, in this respect, the compounds of the European and native merchants were by far the worst; but, on the matter being represented to them, they readily assisted the Board of Health in getting rid of all rubbish which, in its turn, was used for filling up some of the drains pointed out by Dr. Dutton as a source of danger. In this way, about 250 cart-loads of rubbish were utilised. The compounds of the poorer class natives were on the whole clean and tidy.

D.—CLIMATE.

61. The climate of the Gambia differs in many respects from that of the other West African colonies. For eight consecutive months in the year, viz., from November to May, inclusive, practically no rain falls. During these months the weather is often pleasantly cool, the thermometer sometimes registering as low as 57 degrees at 7 a.m. The variations in temperature are somewhat trying, however, often ranging from 30 to 40 degrees between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

62. The rainfall for the year was 45·31 inches, which was about 5 inches below the average.

63. The average maximum temperature in the shade was 94·5 degrees, the average minimum being 63·10 degrees.

64. No record is kept of the direction and force of the wind.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

65. There is a fortnightly service of mail steamers to and from England, which also carry mails to and from other places on the leeward coast. There is an inland weekly postal service, for which mails are made up for McCarthy Island and intermediate stations, the former being 150 miles from Bathurst. These mails are carried by the Government steamer "Mansah Kilah," or "King's Messenger."

TELEGRAPHS.

66. No inland telegraph service exists in the Colony. There is direct telegraphic communication with Europe *viâ* St. Vincent, and also with the other West African colonies.

TELEPHONES.

67. During the year telephones have been introduced into Bathurst on a small scale—Government House, the Colonial Secretary's office, and the Treasury being placed in communication. The distance covered is about one mile. It is proposed to extend the system to other Government offices at an early date.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

68. During the year a detachment of the 3rd West India Regiment was stationed at Bathurst, but in view of its early withdrawal to Sierra Leone it was decided to raise a Gambia company of the West African Frontier Force. With this object in view, three European officers of the Imperial Forces, accompanied by two non-commissioned officers and a medical officer, arrived in the Colony in December and commenced the work of recruiting. The necessary number of men was easily obtained, and, notwithstanding the short time they have been under drill, already show promise of becoming a smart, soldier-like force. The force is composed of 120 men, 40 taken from tribes in the Gambia, and 80 men taken from the tribes around Sierra Leone.

69. The expenditure incurred on account of the force during the year amounted to £1,064.

SEMI-MILITARY FORCE.

70. The Police Force, which is a semi-military force, has already been referred to in paragraph 48 of this Report

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X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

71. The most important event that occurred during the year was the arrival of the Expeditionary Force in January to punish the towns implicated in the murder of the two Travelling Commissioners and six constables in the previous year, and to stamp out the spirit of rebellion which had spread throughout the Protectorate consequent on the people immediately connected with the murders being allowed to go unpunished for so long, the ringleaders declaring that the country had been given back to them and that native rule would replace English law. The expedition was most successful in its object. Three of the men actually guilty of the murders were captured, and after a careful trial paid the full penalty of the law, and five of the leaders in the movement of opposition to the Government were deported to Sierra Leone. The Force marched throughout the length and breadth of the Protectorate without the least opposition except at Dumbutu, which was the first rebel town visited and destroyed.

72. The presence of so large a body of men has had a most wholesome effect, the Protectorate resuming its normal peaceful condition in a very short time. When now spoken to on the subject the chiefs smile, and ask themselves how they and their people could ever have been so foolish as to take up the stand they did against the Government.

73. Another event of much importance was the agreement signed in June last by King Moussa Molloh and Sir George Denton, in which the former agreed (1) that that portion of his kingdom lying within the British sphere of influence should form part of the Protectorate of the Gambia, (2) that a British officer should be placed in charge thereof, (3) that no buying, selling, nor trafficking in slaves should be permitted, (4) to discontinue and put a stop to all practices and punishments repugnant to the laws of humanity and civilization, and (5) to authorise the Governor to impose and collect a hut tax in that part of the Protectorate. In consideration of these conditions, the Government agreed to pay Moussa Molloh the sum of £500 per annum. The event is important as completing the boundary of the Protectorate as well as from the fact that hitherto it had been considered that such an agreement could not be brought about during Moussa Molloh's lifetime.

74. The work of filling up the Half Die swamp was continued during the year. No other public works of importance were undertaken, the whole attention of the Colonial Engineer's department being given to the present Government buildings which were in a very bad state of repair.

75. His Excellency Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Lagos, who had been appointed in October, 1900,

to succeed Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., as Administrator, arrived in the Colony with the expedition on the 10th of January and assumed the administration of the Government. In March, the Colony was raised to the rank of a Governorship, Sir George Denton being appointed the first Governor.

76. During the year two pensioners, Mr. J. R. Maxwell, formerly chief magistrate, and Mr. Syrett, formerly postmaster, died. The Colony has also to regret the deaths of Mr. Percy E. Wainewright, and Mr. B. Marshall, Travelling Commissioners. The former had been in the service of the Colony for five years, and had done valuable work in the Protectorate. The latter was on his first visit to West Africa, and had only been in the Colony four months. The death of Mr. Cates, Registrar and Clerk of Courts, has also to be recorded.

77. The climate of the Gambia, like that of other West African colonies, is unhealthy for Europeans, although perhaps in a less degree. It is impossible to employ white labour in the Colony.

78. The cost of living in the Gambia is much higher for both Europeans and Africans than in any of the other West Coast colonies. For example, as pointed out last year, a case of Sauerbrunnen, which could be bought at Lagos for 15*s.*, costs 25*s.* in Bathurst. However, the price has now been brought down to 21*s.*, and it is hoped that a reference to it this year will result in a further reduction, and cause merchants to consider whether it would not be to their interest to lower the prices of articles of every-day consumption so as to induce consumers to obtain their stores locally, instead of importing direct from Europe.

79. The rates of wages are high, an ordinary labourer being paid at the rate of 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, which, in the ground-nut season, when steamers have to be loaded and labour is scarce, is raised to as much as 2*s.* a day. The wages of mechanics are proportionately high, while their work is of a very poor quality. Owing to the high cost of living, it is difficult to induce good workmen from the other colonies to come to the Gambia.

80. Owing to the failure of the ground-nut crop from want of sufficient rain and the destruction of their food crops by locusts, the natives in the Protectorate began to feel the pinch of famine early in the year. Their position was made worse from the fact that the merchants, who in former years had given out credits of rice, etc., to tide the people over the rains, at the close of which the first corn is ripe for gathering, decided to discontinue the practice. Already the people had begun to hunt in the forests for roots and berries, and to pawn and sell their clothing, many being reduced to wearing rice-bags as their sole covering. It was seen that something must be done and that quickly, otherwise their condition would become serious. The Government was, therefore, compelled to come to the rescue, and at

once purchased and issued nearly four thousand bags of rice, which, it is satisfactory to record, at the time of writing, have, with the exception of 29 bags, all been repaid without any trouble, the natives on all sides expressing their gratitude for the help rendered to them by the Government at a critical time, and asserting with truth that, but for the timely assistance, many of them must have died from starvation during the rains.

81. It may not be without interest to note that for the first time since the Island of St. Mary was made a settlement by British merchants in 1816, an Anglican church has been erected in Bathurst. For over half a century the Anglican community had no better place of worship than an old disused officers' mess-room, and more recently the services had been held in a ground-nut store. The present building is a fine, handsome structure, capable of seating a congregation of 400. The church was completed in sufficient time to allow of its being consecrated on the 24th of December by the Right Reverend John Taylor Smith, Bishop of Sierra Leone, which was his last act in his episcopal See before taking over his duties as Chaplain-General to His Majesty's Forces. On Christmas Day the church was opened for public worship.

82. I cannot close this report without referring to the great grief shared by this Colony with the rest of the British Empire on the occasion of the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, which sad event took place on the 22nd January. A memorial service was held in McCarthy Square by the Bishop of the diocese, which was largely attended by all sections of the community.

H. M. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH.

17th May, 1902.

APPENDIX.

Governor Sir G. C. DENTON to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Bathurst, Gambia,

10th February, 1902.

(Extract.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that I left Bathurst on the morning of the 7th January and proceeded to Tendaba, where, unfortunately, I arrived too late to go over to Quinella that evening.

2. The next morning at daybreak I started for Quinella to inspect the Camp which is being established there as a temporary measure for the West African Frontier Force. I found that good progress had been made with it, and that it will be finished within a very few days. It is very well situated, and will make an excellent training ground for the recruits, some 30 in number, who have been enrolled in the Gambia. These men I saw, and am glad to report that they promise well. They were fitted with their clothing but had not yet been given their arms and accoutrements. The officers at Quinella are Lieutenant Morley, Dr. Hopkinson, and Colour-sergeant Wheatcroft. Captain Graham, Lieutenant Hoskyns, and Sergeant Noble having proceeded to Sierra Leone to bring back with them the 90 men of the West African Frontier Force from that Colony who are required to complete the Gambia Company.

3. I left Tendaba at 10 a.m. on the 8th, and reached Elephant Island about 10 p.m. that evening, when the "Mansah Kilah" anchored.

4. We went off as soon as it was light enough to see, reaching McCarthy Island at 8.30, where we stopped for about a quarter of an hour, and proceeded to Misera Wharf, arriving there at 3.

Here Mr. Stanley met me, and at about 4 I landed and went up to Misera, the principal town of Sandu, where Jimbermang lives, the "Mansah Kilah" returning to Bathurst.

5. Jimbermang welcomed me very warmly, and told me everything was going on well, that the people were contented and happy, and things had been very quiet whilst I was away. It was just the end of the big Mahommedan Fast, and as it had been rigidly kept by this Chief and his people, who are strict followers of the prophet, there was a general appearance of hard times which will vanish very rapidly when the feasting which follows the fasting commences.

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6. On the 11th, about 4 p.m., I held a palaver of all the Chiefs of Sandu. They had nothing to say to me on education and the cultivation of their lands, agreeing with what I told them, and promising to bring more land under ground-nut cultivation next season. But when I came to vaccination things were different. I mentioned that Dr. Maxwell Adams would shortly visit their country, and I explained to them the object of it (vaccination), and this they understood readily, having been in the habit of inoculating their children for many years as a prevention against small-pox. They, however, told me they hoped I would not insist on it. They could give no reasons for objecting to it except that it was new. I assured them I would not force it on them, but took care to impress on them the great protection it would afford them and their children from small-pox, and I also assured them that it was attended with no danger, that it would give them little or no pain at the time it was done, and that the trifling inconvenience it would occasion them would all pass off in a fortnight.

7. Great attention was paid to what I said, and, I believe, if Dr. Maxwell Adams is careful not to arouse their prejudices, and is conciliatory in his methods, he will soon obtain the confidence of the Chiefs, and will at any rate be permitted to vaccinate the children, which is the principal point.

8. I may here mention that Dr. Hopkinson is commencing vaccination in Quinella and its neighbourhood, and I have great hopes that he will be successful in his endeavours.

9. In the evening of this day (11th ultimo), the new moon which terminates the fast was seen, and I at once went down and called on Jimbermang; although I was with him within five minutes of the firing of the gun announcing that the fast was over he had already commenced his feast.

10. One incident occurred whilst I was at Misera which to me personally was of great interest. About 4 p.m. on the day preceding my departure a messenger came to me from Jimbermang, saying that if I would allow it the Alimamy and Elders of the town wished to call upon me and pray for me. I, of course, gave my consent, and in about half-an-hour they appeared, and after the customary compliments had passed between us, the Alcaide, or Headman, offered up a prayer, partly in Arabic and partly in Mandingo, of which the following is the best translation I could arrive at:—"To our Father who art in Heaven. We, followers of the Prophet Mahommed, ask God's blessing on you, and hope God will give you long life. May God make your time here a pleasant and a peaceful time. May God give you and your family long life. Whenever you go to Europe and return here, may you find peace and blessing."

11. I must admit that I was much flattered by this attention, which was entirely novel to me. though I have lived amongst Mahommedan peoples for the greater part of the last

28 years, and have for the most part been on intimate and friendly terms with them.

12. I left Misera at 6.30 a.m. on the 13th, reaching Yoruba Wul after a march of about three hours. Yoruba Wul is a Foulah village containing some 400 inhabitants, who, looking to the amount of cultivation which surrounds it, must be very industrious in their habits. They are also good herdsmen, and have about 200 head of cattle. Here I stayed the night; going on the morning of the 14th to Bantoding, where I was very cordially received by Chief N'Yakudu.

13. I stayed at Bantoding until the morning of the 17th, and had several interviews with N'Yakudu. This Chief has some 30 villages under him, and is much liked by his people, whom he treats liberally and with justice. Absolutely no complaints were made to me, and it is clear that both Sandu and Wuli are now quiet and at rest. The arrangement with regard to the boundary between the two places, which was arrived at in April last, is working satisfactorily. N'Yakudu is quite contented with it, and if Jimbermang has not enlarged Sandu as much as he intended at the expense of Wuli he is wise enough to keep quiet on the subject; his attitude in the matter being, I believe, a good deal due to the fact that he knows the people are for N'Yakudu.

14. I left Bantoding at 6.30 a.m. on the 17th, arriving at Koina Wharf at 10.30 a.m. The towns passed through were Marsuto, Sutuko, Berif, and Fulahkunda. As I had seen the Chiefs and Elders of these places at Bantoding on the previous day, I only made a very short stay in them, the longest stop being at Berif for 45 minutes.

15. The river at Koina Wharf, which is about two miles from the Anglo-French boundary, is about 200 yards wide, and runs between banks quite 20 feet in height. It is between two and three fathoms deep here, and is a magnificient waterway; it might easily be made navigable for vessels drawing 10 to 12 feet to this point. The distance from Koina Wharf to Bathurst is about 270 miles.

Fortunately a cutter loading ground-nuts was lying at the wharf, and I was able to borrow her boat, and in this got across my party very speedily. Had the river transport been confined to the only canoe to be found at this place, crossing would have been a very tedious and lengthy affair.

16. From Koina Wharf I proceeded to Koina Village, which is distant two miles from the river, on the south bank, and stayed there the night. It is in Kantora, and has about 450 inhabitants, who are almost entirely Mandingoes and Mahommedans. Koina itself is a poor place, but the surrounding country is well cultivated, and I am told that the ground-nuts from this part of the Protectorate are of very good quality.

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17. About 8.30 a.m. on the 18th I reached Sunkunda, the distance from Koina being only about seven miles. This town is the capital of Kantora, and at it the head Chief, Manjang by name, lives. It has a population of about 800, and it is fairly prosperous for this part of the world.

18. In my despatch of the 14th April, 1901, I mentioned that I had, under the power given to the Administrator by section 40 of the Protectorate Ordinance, directed an old and troublesome Chief named Sunto Koma Sanyan and his grandson to reside at Bantoding. When with N'Yakudu I saw both these men, and they begged to be allowed to return to their village, Farintunba. As the reports I received of their conduct were excellent, and as they promised to behave themselves and be guided by what Manjang told them in every way, I consider they have been sufficiently punished, and I have therefore permitted them to go back to their home, and I do not anticipate any trouble from them in the future.

19. The villages which lie on the road between Koina and Sunkunda are called Keneba, Jowokunda, Farintunba, and Kasirikunda, and are all small and of very little importance.

20. On the 19th I held a palaver at Sunkunda, to which Manjang had called the heads of the different Kantora villages. Everything passed off very satisfactorily, the only question raised being that of the boundary between Kantora and Fulladu. The Simotu Creek has been generally recognised as the western limit of Kantora, but Manjang said he had not sufficient land for his people, and asked that he might be allowed to make farms beyond it. I told him this could not be permitted, as that would be encroaching on Musa Molloh's country, and he did not press the point, in which from the first he seemed only to take a very half-hearted interest.

21. We left Sunkunda at 6.30, and went on to Tuba Kouta, a distance of about 10 miles, where I was met by N'Farli Cora, the stipend Chief for the eastern portion of Fulladu. The country through which we passed was well cultivated, and I was glad to learn that a good crop of food-stuffs had been collected, and that the ground-nut crop was expected to be fully up to the average in both quality and quantity.

22. The village of Tuba Kouta is only about three-quarters of a mile to the west of the boundary, so that my remarks as to crops, etc., apply almost entirely to Kantora. I may say that I was very agreeably surprised with what I saw in this district. I was told that the people were to a great extent Soninkes, and given over to drunkenness, but, as far as I was able to judge, the contrary is the case. Nearly all I saw were Mahommedans, intelligent and alert in appearance, and the quantity of land under cultivation bears testimony to their energy and industry. It is commonly said by the European merchants in Bathurst that as soon as a Soninke becomes a Marabout he gives up all

active pursuits, and is lazy and idle, but this does not appear to be true in this case, as I consider the people of Kantora, who have only recently embraced Mahommedanism, are decidedly improved in every way by their change in faith, and are now quite amongst the best class of natives we have in the Protectorate.

23. The march from Tuba Kouta to Tambasansan was rather a trying one, though the road was good. Again the country through which we passed shewed signs of industry and energy on the part of its inhabitants, and I was glad to see a certain amount of cotton planted and well tended. At present the quantity produced is only sufficient to supply home wants, but this could easily be increased, and I am in hopes that with encouragement the industry may in time assume fair dimensions, and make a material addition to the exports from the Colony.

24. On the 23rd, I met the Headmen of the principal villages in Eastern Fulladu, and explained to them the position which the British Government now occupied in their country. One and all expressed their satisfaction with the changes which were brought about in June last by the Agreement with Musa Molloh, and they were evidently very pleased that in future they would be free from the exactions this Chief used to impose on them. The inhabitants of this part of the Protectorate are Mandingoes and Fulahs, and appear to me to be a quiet, peaceable lot. I have great hopes that with a settled form of government, under which justice is readily obtainable, Fulladu will progress and very rapidly become prosperous.

25. Tambasansan, where N'Farli Cora lives, is a town with about 550 inhabitants. It is well kept, as native towns go, and N'Farli himself is one of the richest men outside Bathurst. He is essentially a worker, and manages his different farms himself. I am told that he is very popular with his people, and—a wonderful thing in a rich native—never oppresses them, being very liberal in all his dealings with them. Altogether I regard him as the best type of native Chief I have met on the Gambia. Although not so great a man as Musa Molloh by birth and position, he is equal in intelligence, and superior to him in a sense of justice and honesty.

26. I left Tambasansan on the morning of the 27th, and reached Basse, a large Fulah town, whose Headman is named Mansah Jang, a little after 8 a.m. Again the country through which we passed had been cultivated far more than is the case generally, and the people had a prosperous and well-to-do appearance. Mansah Jang is a rich man, and owns large herds of cattle. He did not strike me as particularly intelligent, and I believe his health is not good. For these reasons his influence is not so great as it might be. He, however, accepts N'Farli Cora as his head Chief without question, and is glad to come under the British Government, so will give no trouble.

27. I reached Gambisara on the morning of the 28th, and was very well received by the Headman and his Elders. This town is situated immediately on the boundary line between the British and French spheres of influence; in fact, at the time of the agreement with Musa Molloh was concluded a large portion of it was situated on the French side, but now the whole town, with the exception of four huts, has been removed to the English side. Gambisara has a population of between 1,500 and 2,000, and has, within about a mile of it, another large Serahouli town called Numuyelle. It may perhaps be well to explain that Serahouli is a term applied to a people who come from a country called Tilibo, lying to the east of the Gambia Protectorate, who are a distinct tribe from either Mandingoes, Joloffs, or Fulahs, and speak a different language. They are good Mahommedans, and there are amongst them many craftsmen, such as workers in leather, goldsmiths, makers of wooden bowls and canoes, blacksmiths, and weavers of native cloths. They are said to pay large dowries for their wives, and are supposed to have a higher sense of morality in their domestic relations than is generally found amongst the natives of West Africa. They are industrious and peaceable, and do much for the places in which they live.

28. It was my desire to have had a meeting with Musa Molloh at Gambisara, but the French authorities did not see their way to allow him to come to me just now, so I was obliged to transact the business I had with him by letter, and this I have dealt with separately. I may, however, mention that I held a palaver at this place which was very fully attended, and at which both Dembo Danso and N'Farli Cora were present. In deference to the wishes of the Serahoulis, I sanctioned these towns (*i.e.*, Gambisara and Numuyelle) being under the Headman of the former place, though, strictly speaking, they are within N'Farli Cora's district, but his jurisdiction is limited to the towns themselves and the land immediately adjoining them.

29. At the palaver there were general expressions of satisfaction that the rule of Musa Molloh had been replaced by that of the British Government, and everyone appeared pleased with the new arrangements. There were, of course, some who wanted more than they got, but on the whole they were well contented, and even those whose demands were not satisfied in full felt that they had obtained more than they would ever have received under the old régime, and I do not think there is the least chance of their leaving the British sphere of influence for the French.

30. Gambisara and Numuyelle have a great local reputation for their country cloths, but I cannot say I was much impressed with them. They use both English and native yarn in their manufacture, and certainly produce a strong, soft cloth, but the strips in which they are woven are very narrow, and they compare

very unfavourably with those made in the Yoruba country, both in design and texture.

31. Early in the morning of the 31st, before we left Gambisara, I regret to say, Mr. Tracy, who was in command of the escort of the West Indian Regiment which accompanied me, developed blackwater fever, and, unfortunately, there was no doctor near to attend to him. Under the circumstances, the best thing to be done with him was to send him at once to Bathurst, and, as the "Mansah Kilah" met me at Kossema, I was, by a great stroke of good fortune, able to put him into hospital within 48 hours of the disease first showing itself. Though very seriously ill, and at one time in a very critical condition, after he reached Bathurst, Mr. Tracy has, I am glad to say, recovered, and proceeds to England by the next steamer. The type of fever from which he suffered has, I regret to say, been very prevalent since my return to the Colony, no less than five cases having occurred since the 10th November last. At the present moment Mr. Ozanne is in hospital with it, but is, I am glad to say, doing well.

32. From Kossema I proceeded by the steamer to McCarthy Island, disembarking there at 9.30 p.m. on the 31st. The 1st of February I spent in McCarthy Island, going into several matters with the Commissioner of this part of the Protectorate, Mr. McCallum, whose district I hope to go through before long.

33. On the 2nd February I went to Boraba, the largest town in Western Fulladu, and the place where Dembo Danso resides. Here I remained until the 4th February, and on the 3rd I held a large meeting of the people, and explained to them the conditions under which the Government of British Fulladu would in future be administered.

34. At first, one or two of the Fulah towns evinced a strong opposition to being placed under Dembo Danso, no doubt due to the fact that in the past he had been Musa Molloh's principal agent; but when I explained to them that under the existing condition of affairs he was directly subordinate to the Commissioner, who again was responsible to me, and would report everything that occurred to me, they gave way and accepted him with a very good grace, and I have no doubt myself that he will make an excellent Headman, as he is a very careful, capable, and intelligent man.

35. This completed the arrangements I had to make for Fulladu, and I am glad to say they have, I consider, been brought to a very successful conclusion. Under the more liberal conditions of Government which now exist, Fulladu will, I feel sure, develop very considerably, and, as the soil is fertile and well-suited to both cotton and ground-nuts, as well as foodstuffs, I hope before long to see the exports from this part of the Protectorate increase very considerably.

36. The difficult question will be that of labour, as is always the case in newly-acquired territories in West Africa, but I trust that many people will be tempted to come when they find out that under British protection they are not required to pay exorbitant taxes, are subject only to humane and just punishments for any offences they may commit, and are allowed to reap the full benefit of their labours.

37. From Boraba I proceeded to Kai Hai, and inspected the work there, which is progressing satisfactorily, as far as I am able to judge, but I propose, when I have had time to discuss the matter with the Colonial Engineer, to address you separately on this subject.

38. On my way down the river, I stopped at Tendaba, and again visited Quinella in order that I might see the West African Frontier Force established in its camp. The Chief of Quinella, Fodi by name, whom I have mentioned to you in other despatches, has done excellent work, and, though the stationing of soldiers was at first by no means agreeable to him, has given the Government every assistance in his power. Under cover of another despatch I have forwarded a report on the West African Frontier Force, by Captain Graham, with my remarks, and I need say no more on this subject here.

39. Generally, I beg to say I am pleased with the state of affairs in the upper river. The crops of foodstuffs have, with very few exceptions, been good, and the ground-nuts are heavy and fairly abundant. Judging by what is told me, I think we may well expect as good a crop of this product this year as was obtained last year, perhaps better, and this means that the revenue from all sources will be much about the same.

40. One thing that I noticed on this visit was the progress which Mahommenadism is making in this part of the world. But a very little time ago the Soninkes were very numerous, as also were the Pagan Fulahs; now every day the Marabouts are increasing, and before long they will number three-quarters at least of the population. This, I think, will on the whole be of decided advantage to the Colony, though the revenue from the spirit trade, never a large amount on the Gambia, will fall off, no doubt, but it will, I believe, be possible to make up the sum lost from other sources.

41. Another matter which particularly struck me was the difficulty in obtaining efficient interpretation. I have already touched on this in paragraph 11 of my despatch, No. 124, of the 27th June last, and I am pleased to say two at least of the Commissioners will, I hope, pass the proposed examination in Mandingo before they go on leave. But the main trouble is that so few of those of the class from which interpreters should be obtained know Mandingo really well, and when they are thoroughly acquainted with it and the different dialects their English is frequently very defective.

42. This is a very great drawback, and makes the political work very difficult. The only remedy I can think of is to offer special inducements to the schools to prepare boys for the position of interpreter, and on this I hope to address you more fully at an early date.

43. I consider that Mr. Stanley deserves great credit for the work he has done, and is doing, in his district. He is evidently on very good terms with the people, and has brought in many reforms with very little friction. He has also nearly completed the details of an excellent map of both north and south banks, and has made himself well acquainted with all parts of his district.

44 The roads over which I passed compare favourabiy with those of native construction in Yoruba land, and within the next few months, that is before the rainy season, the different creeks will have strong native bridges across them. I only used a hammock for about two miles, riding on horseback for the rest of the way, and, with the exception of two creeks which were too deep to ford, I had only to dismount at the regular halting places. Some of the horses are excellent, and are bigger than those I have hitherto seen in West Africa. For instance, two I rode in Fulladu were nearly 15 hands in height, and capital hacks, but the price paid for them is much larger than what I have been accustomed to, £40 being the cost of one of them and £60 of the other. These were, of course, exceptionally good beasts, and very different from the ordinary six to ten pound horse which one sees in Bathurst.

We managed to get a little shooting at times, the bag consisting of 254 bush fowl or partridge (francolinus piliatus), 65 sand grouse or Barbary quail (pterocles arenarius), 3 small bustard, 2 hares, 13 Guinea birds, 2 button quail, 6 pigeon, 2 painted snipe, and 1 antelope. As far as large game is concerned, a hippo. was shot by Mr. Stanley at Misera two days before our arrival there, and last September a lion was shot by a native hunter at Tambasansan. Had one the time to give to it, I believe excellent sport could be obtained at certain seasons of the year on the Gambia river, as in the marshes adjacent to it several kinds of antelope are to be found. In the adjoining French Protectorate elephants and giraffes are by no means rare, and, judging by the skins that are brought down by traders, lions are fairly plentiful.

46. I forward a tracing of Mr. Stanley's map,* showing the route I took during my tour. The distance traversed is only a little over 100 miles, and I wish that I could have gone from Gambisara to Boroba, which is about one-and-a-half miles from the river, on the south bank, opposite McCarthy Island, by road. The distance is only between 40 and 50 miles, but there are no villages of any size on the road, though the country is fertile and well cultivated, I am told, and it would have been impossible

* Not reproduced.

to obtain carriers under the system in vogue here of taking them from town to town. This is an economical way of travelling, and really works wonderfully well on the whole, though it has the disadvantage of making your progress very slow when compared with what you could do with men hired by the day for the whole trip, as is the practice in Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Lagos. Still the saving is very great, carriers, who would have received at least £150 in the colonies I have named, only costing me on this occasion about £20. And with this before me I cannot see my way to recommend any change at present.

47. In conclusion, I beg to say that everywhere I went I was received with great courtesy and attention, and I have every reason to think that both the Chiefs and people generally are contented and satisfied with their lot.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 391.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 355.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
367	Ceylon	1901
368	Barbados	1901–1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902
373	Jamaica	,,
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2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada...	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 391.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 355).

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE GAMBIA, 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

A.—General Revenue and Expenditure.

It will be seen from the following statement of Revenue that the actual receipts collected during the year 1902 amounted in the aggregate to no less than some 14 per cent. more than during the preceding year, and exceeded that of any previous year, which must be considered satisfactory.

2. The Revenue collected during the year was £51,016, as against £43,726 last year.

3. The Return A. (*see* Appendix) gives a comparison of the Revenue for the last five years classified under the principal heads.

4. The Expenditure, although showing an increase over that for the year 1901, is due to important public works being carried out that could not without detriment be longer delayed, to the formation of a Company of the West African Frontier Force, to the purchase of a steam launch, and to the policy pursued with regard to the Protectorate generally, which in a great measure is responsible for the existing tranquil and prosperous state of the country.

5. A comparative statement of the heads of expenditure from the year 1898 is given in Return B. (*see* Appendix).

B.—Taxation.

6. There was no alteration in the Customs Tariff during the year or any additional taxation.

C.—Assets and Liabilities.

7. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony at the end of the calendar year showed a surplus of £59,602. Of this sum, £53,153 was invested in various Government securities.

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Currency.

8. The currency in the Colony is sterling, but the five franc piece, which is largely circulated throughout the Protectorate, is accepted as legal tender at an exchange value of 3*s.* 10½*d.*

D.—Public Debt.

10. The Colony has no Public Debt.

E.—Municipalities, Local Boards, &c.

11. The Board of Health during the year carried out a number of important works in the sanitation of the town, and by filling disused drains, covering wells, and attending to the general cleanliness of yards and compounds attacked the habitual breeding places of the mosquito.

12. The following was the Revenue during the year:—

	£
Local rates on houses at 3 per cent. on annual value	550
Slaughter house fees	94
Government Grant	1,000

13. The Return C. (*see* Appendix) shows the Receipts and Expenditure of the Board during the past five years.

14. There is a Board of Education for the promotion and assistance of general education in the Colony. It is comprised of the Governor as President, Members of the Legislative Council, and Managers of the Denominational Schools.

The Grants given by the Government during the year amounted to £501.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—Imports and Exports.

15. The total value of Imports in 1902 amounted to £303,615, and the value of Exports £248,140; giving a trade return of a half a million, or an increase of £50,000 over the preceding year. The increase was due to the high prices paid for ground nuts—the highest obtained for the last 20 years—and it necessitated a large importation of specie, the purchase of produce in the Gambia being now principally by cash and not by barter as in the early nineties.

16. The importation of cotton goods and kola nuts showed a decided increase over the preceding year, but there was a

substantial falling off in rice, which ought to show prosperity in the country, and no doubt does, but in a measure this decrease may be accounted for by the large quantity imported during 1901.

17. The Return D. (*see* Appendix) gives the principal articles of import and their value for the past two years.

18. The actual value of Imports for the past five years is shown in the Return E. (*see* Appendix).

19. The principal Exports during the past two years will be seen from the Return F. (*see* Appendix).

20. The values of the Exports for the last five years are shown in the Return G. (*see* Appendix).

B.—Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

21. There are no mines in the Colony or apparent mineral wealth. There is, however, a plethora of excellent fish of several varieties, but the question of taking up fishing as an industry beyond what is required for local consumption has never been considered. A considerable quantity of dried fish is, however, sent up the river from Bathurst, but the interior native is nearly as well off for fish as his brethren at Bathurst, as, the Gambia River running throughout the length of the Protectorate, it can be obtained anywhere.

C.—Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

22. Ground nuts predominate throughout the length and breadth of the Colony. Rice, millet, and maize are grown to some extent, but only for local consumption. Owing to the want of irrigation rice could not for a moment be considered from an export point of view, although an expert in irrigation who arrived at the latter end of the year reported that the people understood the art of cultivating it as well as the natives of Ceylon, and that he had seen many excellent varieties of rice under cultivation. As a matter of fact, however, but small quantities are actually grown in the Protectorate, although more was cultivated during the year than in 1901, as will be seen by a decrease in the importation of no less than some 1,000 tons.

23. As a second main industry, the Government are making strenuous efforts to encourage the cultivation of cotton, and an expert is being sent out for the purpose of advising and instructing the people. Native cotton in the Upper River Districts has been grown in very small quantities for many years past, but, although easily disposed of to the native weavers and at a good price, the people have never really taken the industry up in a practical manner. Ground nuts pay them a sufficient profit to keep them during the off season, and, being a thrifty

and really industrious people, more so than lower down in the Gulf of Guinea, they do not as yet seriously consider the cultivation of any other product or cotton growing in quantities, as an aiding industry. A crop of ground nuts from start to finish means a considerable amount of actual labour, and there is no doubt that the Protectorate is very sparsely populated. Room could probably be found for double the number of inhabitants if they were forthcoming.

24. Bamboo grows in abundance, and it is astonishing that the mercantile firms have not given the question of exporting it consideration.

Botanical.

25. At present there is no Botanical Garden, but a tract of land at Kotu is enclosed and treated on the basis of a farm. During the year a good supply of ground nuts was grown, and a trial was given to the cultivation of cotton. A fair return was obtained, but the land has proved to be of too sandy nature and hardly suitable for the formation of a model plantation for instruction in cotton cultivation.

26. To Kotu all Government cattle are sent, and the Governor is endeavouring to foster an export trade with the Gold Coast through the medium of the English shipping firm, the beasts on the Gambia being first-rate and the meat excellent. Moreover, the cattle are larger than those found lower down the West African Coast.

27. The export of timber has not been taken up. A certain quantity of rosewood exists, but it is small and would hardly pay for cutting and shipping. It is proposed, however, to send a few specimen logs to England as an experiment.

E.—Shipping.

29. The total tonnage of steam vessels that cleared from the Port of Bathurst during 1902 was 277,694 tons, and of sailing vessels, which principally comprise coast trading cutters, there being only an occasional visit from an American barque, 9,184 tons, showing a total tonnage of 286,878 tons, a slight increase over 1901.

30. The total shipping for the past five years is shown in the Return H. (*see* Appendix).

31. The Return I. (*see* Appendix) is a complete return of the shipping during the last two years.

III.—LEGISLATION.

32. During the year under review, twenty-one Ordinances were passed, eight Proclamations, and a number of Rules and Regulations. The Ordinances were as follows:—

No. 1. An Ordinance to amend the Public Health Ordinance.

No. 2. An Ordinance to incorporate a body to be known as "The Saint Mary's Church Body to vest therein the new Church of St. Mary, the Chaplain's Lodge, and other Church property, and for other purposes in connection therewith."

No. 3. An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of a Force known as the Gambia Company of the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force, and for the organisation and discipline thereof.

No. 4. An Ordinance to amend the prevention of Contagious Disease Ordinance, 1901.

No. 5. An Ordinance to regulate the making of Grants and Dispositions of Public Lands.

No. 6. An Ordinance to amend the Customs Ordinance, 1882, by making provision for the imposition of certain charges in respect of the attendance of Customs Officers at times other than the days and hours of general attendance.

No. 7. An Ordinance to make better provision for the management of the Protectorate, and for the administration of justice therein.

No. 8. An Ordinance to legalise certain payments made in the year 1901 beyond the expenditure authorised by law.

No. 9. An Ordinance to amend the West African Frontier Force (Gambia Company) Ordinance, 1902.

No. 10. An Ordinance to regulate weights, weighing machines, and measures.

No. 11. An Ordinance to amend the Registration Ordinance, 1880.

No. 12. An Ordinance to amend the Court of Requests Ordinance, 1899.

No. 13. An Ordinance to amend the Patents for Invention Ordinance, 1900.

No. 14. An Ordinance to amend the Trade Marks (Registration) Ordinance, 1900.

No. 15. An Ordinance declaring all provisions contained in any Ordinances now in force with regard to a Queen's Advocate, Public Prosecutor, or other the like officer shall also apply to His Majesty's Attorney-General.

No. 16. An Ordinance to regulate the law relating to sentences of flogging.

No. 17. An Ordinance for the protection of illiterate persons in the Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia.

No. 18. An Ordinance to amend the Coroners' Ordinance, 1899.

No. 19. An Ordinance to amend the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1902.

No. 20. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of the Gambia for the year 1903.

No. 21. An Ordinance to further amend the West African Frontier Force (Gambia Company) Ordinance, 1902.

33. Numbers 3 and 7 were most important measures. The former provides for the Colony's defence by the formation of a Company of the West Arican Frontier Force, with a total establishment of three officers and 120 rank and file, properly equipped. The latter Ordinance is a very far reaching and important measure, providing for the detail administration of the Protectorate.

IV.—EDUCATION.

34. There are no Government Schools in the Colony, the system being denominational. The masters are appointed by the governing bodies, which are the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan Societies.

35. The Anglican Society have one school, the Roman Catholics two, and the Wesleyans three primary schools, two being in Bathurst and one at McCarthy Island. Grants-in-aid are made by the Government on the Report of the Inspector of Schools, and are based on the earnings, proficiency, and general attendance at each school.

36. The Grants earned by the schools during the past year were as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Roman Catholic	196	6	1
Wesleyan	187	19	10
Anglican	90	6	1

37. The following table shows the actual number of children on the school rolls during the year:—

		Boys.	Girls.
Roman Catholic	St. Joseph's Convent	—	150
	Hagan Street	206	—
Wesleyan	Dobson Street	122	115
	Stanley Street	114	89
	McCarthy Island	24	18
Anglican, St Mary's		119	93

38. The average attendance was 683 to 685; this, unfortunately, shows a decrease in comparison with that for the preceding year.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

39. The only Secondary School in the Colony is conducted by the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and has attendance of 24 boys.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

40. At the instigation of the Government, a Technical School was opened under the auspices of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, but it is undenominational. The grant made in aid of this Institution amounts to £300.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A.—HOSPITALS.

41. There are now three hospitals in the Colony—the Victoria Hospital, the Female Hospital, and the Contagious Diseases Hospital.

42. During the latter part of the year very extensive repairs and additions were made to the buildings of the former, and on the completion of these the accommodation will be considerably increased, enabling practically new buildings to be placed at the disposal of the medical authorities.

Provision has been made for a consulting room, an operating room, a library, stewards' room, and other additions.

43. The Female Hospital, a most desirable building, was completed about the end of the year, and takes the place of the old bungalow which hitherto was used, giving additional accommodation for female patients.

44. A bungalow in course of erection is to be used as quarters for three European sisters, whom it is intended to engage as nurses. The sisters belong to the Roman Catholic Society of St. Joseph of Cluny, and have been trained as nurses in Paris.

45. The total cost to the Government of the upkeep of the hospital for the year was £2,739 10*s.* 1*d.*

B, C, AND D.

46. There are no asylums, poor houses, or reformatories. By an arrangement with the Sierra Leone Government all lunatics are sent for treatment to the Kissy Asylum in that Colony.

E.—Savings Bank.

47. The Government Savings Bank, established under the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1884, is managed by the treasurer; all business in connection with it being carried on at the Treasury.

The total deposits during the year amounted to £2,051, which is a slight increase on the amount of £2,039 deposited during the previous year.

48. The table K. (*see* Appendix) gives the particulars of transactions during the past five years.

The interest paid to depositors is at the rate of 2½ per cent. Interest paid amounted to £118 in 1900, £117 in 1901, and the same sum in 1902.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

A.—Police.

49. The Gambia Police is a semi-military force established under the Police Force Ordinance, 1889. It numbers at present some 80 men only, the establishment having been reduced, on the formation of the Company of West African Frontier Force in the Colony, from 100 men.

50. The force is officered by Europeans, viz., one Superintendent and one Assistant Superintendent. The non-commissioned officers and men are natives. Expenditure amounting to £3,952 13*s.* was incurred during the year on account of this Department.

B.—Prisons.

51. The gaol at Bathurst is the only prison in the Colony or Protectorate, but, although it is an old building, it meets the present requirements, being capable of housing 38 prisoners—31 male and 7 female. The daily average number of prisoners for 1902 was 23, being an increase of nearly 10 over the average of the previous year.

52. There were three deaths out of a total of 116 prisoners incarcerated during the year. The sanitation was good, and the order and discipline maintained throughout the year excellent.

53. The total cost to the Colony for maintaining the prison during the year under report amounted to £711, as compared with £803 in 1901, £680 in 1900, £796 in 1889, and £758 in 1898. The officers of the establishment consist of one inspector (European), one gaoler, one chief warder, six warders, and one matron.

C.—Criminal Statistics.

54. During the year 1902 there were 276 minor offences reported to the magistrates at the Bathurst Courts, and 129 to the Commissioners in the Protectorate, giving a total of 405, which cannot by any means be considered a large number out of a population of over 90,000 persons. The total convictions amounted to 305 and acquittals 100. Most of the offences were tried and disposed of summarily, there being only 18 convictions in the Supreme Court.

55. The increase in the Crime Returns during the year is attributed to—

1. Prisoners under sentence for military offences;
2. A closer supervision exercised in the Protectorate.

56. There were but few instances of crimes of any serious nature, viz., four charges of murder, three manslaughter, one attempt to murder, and three malicious injury to property. These principally came from the Jolah country. The Jolahs may be considered the most unsettled race in the Gambia, although a fairly intelligent people. The other portions of the Protectorate are now happily in a contented and prosperous state.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A.—Population.

57. The population remained stationary, excepting, perhaps, in certain parts of the Protectorate where there has been a considerable influx of natives, who, having been attracted by the conditions of British rule, have crossed the frontier.

58. At the Census taken in 1901, the figures given for the Colony proper were 7,383 males, 6,073 females, total, 13,456; and for the Protectorate, males, 36,552, females, 40,396, total, 76,948, giving a grand total of 90,404. This return of the population can only be taken as approximate, as stated in last year's report.

59. There were 403 births, 28 marriages, and 410 deaths in the Colony, but no figures from the Protectorate were obtained; one European died in the hospital during the year.

The following return shows the number of cases treated during the year:—

——	Admitted during year.	Died.	Out-patients.
European	6	1	3,825
Natives	465	18	

61. The following table shows the number of cases of illness and invaliding among Europeans during the past five years, and the number resident in the Colony for the same period:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Number of Europeans Resident ...	63	80	71	88	98
" " " Treated ...	62	60	90	89	26
" " " Died	3	1	°9	†4	‡2
" " " Invalided ...	3	1	Nil.	3	2

° In 1900 there was an epidemic of yellow fever.
† One case, gun-shot wound. ‡ One case of drowning.

B.—Public Health.

62. Although there was a slight increase in the number of deaths reported over the previous year, yet the general health of the Colony was good.

63. Except for a very few cases of small-pox which occurred, there was no epidemic. This being a disease that is endemic in all tropical countries vaccination was carried on extensively both in the Colony and Protectorate. In the latter place some difficulties were experienced at first in getting the natives to abandon their own system of inoculation which has had bad results, but they are now gladly accepting vaccination.

C.—Sanitation.

64. Sanitation in Bathurst, the capital of the Colony, is under a Board of Health.

65. The work of exterminating mosquitoes, by destroying their larvæ and otherwise waging war against them, was carried on with good effects.

66. An Assistant Inspector of Nuisance was appointed by the Board of Health, extra scavengers employed, and considerably more was done to keep the low-lying sandbank of St. Mary's Island, whereon Bathurst is built, in as healthy a condition as possible. The town is very clean.

67. The expenditure by the Board of Health for 1902 amounted to £1,283.

68. The representatives of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Doctors E. Dutton and J. Todd, revisited the Colony in October and continued their study of various tropical diseases, especially the new one known as Trypanosomiasis.

69. At the close of the year these medical officers were still engaged in their investigations, and it is pleasing to record that they rendered most useful services in every part of the Colony

and Protectorate where they visited, prescribing for the natives and educating them to appreciate civilised methods of treating diseases.

D.—Climate.

70. The climate of the Gambia is admittedly the best on the British West African Coast, and for some eight months in the year—November to May, known as the dry season—is really pleasant. In other months, during the rains, it is, however, probably as unhealthy as other places on the coast. During this period the atmosphere is hot, damp, and depressing.

71. The temperature in the dry season ranges from 60 to 90 degrees at headquarters, but up country 45 to 107 is not unusual.

72. The rainfall during the year was abnormally small, only 29·42 inches, which is some 24 inches below the average for the past ten years 1890 to 1900.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

73. By the English line there is a fortnightly mail to and from England. During the trading season, which extends from October to July, there are, however, frequent opportunities of transmitting mails via Marseilles by ground nut steamers.

74. The Government yacht, the "Mansah Kilah," runs regularly each week, leaving Bathurst on Tuesday and returning on Friday, and by this means an inland mail service is provided. Letters, &c., for inland towns are sent forward by runners from the various places of call. Passengers and a small amount of cargo can be carried by the yacht.

Telegraphs.

75. There is at present no inland service in the Colony. The African Direct Telegraph Company have a station at Bathurst, and there is direct communication by cable with Europe and the West African Colonies.

Telephones.

76. There has been no change in the telephone service, which remains as last year, Government House, the Secretariat, and the Treasury being the only buildings in which there are telephones.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

77. In May, 1902, the Detachment of the 3rd West India Regiment, which had remained in the Gambia after the expedition, finally left the Colony. The present force consists of the Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force.

The actual expenditure incurred during the year on the force was £4,801 9*s.* 8*d.*

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

78. The ground nut season of the year 1902, or at least the price obtained for the nuts grown during the latter part of 1901, will be remembered as an abnormal one for the industry, the prices obtainable varying from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per bushel, as against the recognised sale price in previous years of 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* for the bushel of 28 lbs.

The demand was due not only to the excellent nuts produced but to the smallness of the crop throughout Senegal and the scarcity of nuts generally.

79. The price paid to the natives for their nuts was the highest known for 20 years, and this induced them during the planting season, which commences in July of the year under review, to cultivate larger areas of land than they had ever done before. It is unfortunate, however, that the rainfall in the Colony was considerably below the average, as the dryness of the soil was detrimental to the production of a heavy nut, and the consequence was that the crop produced, although showing an excessive return, cannot be considered a good one, the nut being light and the shells containing a large percentage of withered seed.

80. The price also fell very considerably, and in many instances the people have a quantity of nuts remaining on hand, there being no sale for them, merchants not buying freely owing to the markets in Europe being glutted with the large shipments already made.

81. To guard as far as possible against the evil of a bad crop during the next season, it is proposed to obtain some really good seed from Rufisque and issue it to the people in exchange for that grown in the country. By this means it is hoped that the industry may be appreciably benefitted.

82. The question of irrigation has for some time been before the Government. At the latter end of the year Mr. Henry Parker, of the Irrigation Department of the Ceylon Government, arrived in the Colony to report on the possibilities of the scheme being taken up in some practical form. Mr. Parker's opinion,

after going through the length and breadth of the Colony, was, that to introduce irrigation on a suitable scale would prove a very costly venture, but he suggested that the village tank system, as instituted throughout Ceylon, might be adopted with advantage. In any case, a considerable expenditure would be required to carry out this proposal, and, moreover, labour in any quantity is hard to obtain. The introduction of the scheme, therefore, must of necessity stand over for future consideration.

83. The Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force, established in 1901, was inspected during the year by General Kemball, and his report on the efficient state of the Company was most satisfactory. An encampment was formed at Quinella, on the south bank of the river, some 55 miles from Bathurst, and there the Company was put through a thorough course of training, remaining in camp for some six months.

On the departure of the Detachment 3rd West India Regiment, which had been detained in the Colony at the close of the Expedition in 1901, the Company came to headquarters.

84. The demand on the services of the Government yacht "Mansah Kilah" being so great, required as she is for the weekly service to McCarthy Island, it was necessary to obtain a steam launch for service in the upper reaches of the river beyond McCarthy. The "Thistle" was purchased at a cost of £1,100 odd, and she is now stationed in the Upper River, and utilised by the Commissioner of that district, which extends for some hundred miles along the river.

85. The Public Works Department carried out numerous works during the year, comprising principally "alterations and repairs" that could not possibly be postponed longer, to public buildings at an expenditure of some £5,000. Among the more important works were the extensive repairs to the old hospital and the erection of a complete new wing at a cost of over £800, repairs to the sea-wall, drains, and bridges on the Island, and roads and bridges in Combo, rebuilding of premises as a secretariat, and a new Court House at McCarthy Island.

A new Female Hospital was built, and the work on the bungalow for European nurses commenced.

86. An estimate for extensive alterations to the men's quarters at the barracks, and numerous other alterations to the outbuildings, has been approved, and the work will be placed in hand early in the new year.

87. The filling in of Half Die Swamp was rapidly pushed on with, but this is a large undertaking and cannot be completed for some time.

88. Great difficulty is experienced in the Gambia in coping with works and giving true estimates, owing to the scarcity of labour and the inefficiency of the workmen. The fact is there has been but little opportunity for gaining experience, except during the past year or two, owing to the limited constructional and other works carried out in the Colony during the past ten

years. The best workmen have consequently left the Colony and the few mechanics remaining have deteriorated, but now that an impetus is being given to works in Bathurst, it is hoped that the training obtained under the Public Works Department may have a beneficial effect.

89. To a new comer in the Colony the point that strikes one is the high rates paid for servants; 30*s.* to 35*s.* at the Gold Coast or Lagos, the latter principally, was a fair price for a steward. In the Gambia £3 is not considered excessive. The same applies to cooks. This shows that good servants are at a premium and are most difficult to obtain.

90. Living is also expensive, and the mercantile houses do not cater as elsewhere for a retail trade. Few things can be purchased locally, and for these the charges are high. The consequence is that officials and the leading members of the community procure nearly everything from Europe.

Servants themselves complain of the cost of living. As an instance, yams, a necessity of the African, are very poor in Bathurst and high priced; my steward, therefore, sends down to Klein Popo and has a consignment sent regularly. Fruit is scarce and very expensive. For a pawpaw that one could obtain at Lagos for a few cowries, 3*d.* has to be paid in the Gambia. Therefore, taking things all round, the general cost of living can be put at 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. higher than lower down the coast.

91. During the year the Governor, Sir George Denton, made several tours of inspection throughout the various districts of the Colony. On such occasions meetings of the chiefs and people are held in the towns occupied by the head chiefs, and the sub-chiefs, members of the various tribunals, and people are called together and have an opportunity of bringing their grievances, if any, direct to the Governor's notice. By this means the people come directly in touch with the Governor, and this tends to create a spirit of confidence in the Government and is a check on any malpractices that might be committed.

The Commissioner is, as a rule, present, and all complaints are dealt with at once, according to promises made and instructions given by the Governor. This appeals to the people, and shows them that as long as they do their duty the Government will protect them against oppression.

92. The advancement of the cotton industry is receiving every attention. A cotton expert is expected early in the year; he will visit the Protectorate and instruct the chiefs and people in the most modern methods of culivating this product. But, although strenuous efforts will be made to get the industry taken up as a second string to ground nuts, it is feared that the want of population, and the better profits obtained from the latter crop, will prove insurmountable obstacles to any material extension. The ground nut crop takes five months' hard work from start to finish, and the people are therefore little inclined

to tackle cotton. However, when it is proved to them that there are possibilities in the cultivation and that they can always find a ready market in Bathurst they may take up the industry in a practical form.

93. During the year a change in the constitution of the Colony was made, the first Colonial Secretary being Mr. H. M. Brandford Griffith (formerly Treasurer). The office of Attorney-General was also created, Mr. W. R. Townsend being appointed to the post.

94. The Colony experienced a heavy loss through the death, in February, of Mr. Ozanne, C.M.G., Travelling Commissioner, North Bank, from black water fever. Mr. Ozanne was one of the first Commissioners appointed to the Gambia, and the honour conferred upon him during his service in the Colony, bears witness to the energy and interest shown by him in the performance of his duties.

95. In closing this report, mention must be made of the most important social feature in the Colony during 1902, namely, the celebration of the coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII., in connection with which an assembly of all the chiefs was held in June. Rejoicings were general and the loyalty of the people undoubted. It was, however, with deep sorrow and regret that the community received the sad intelligence of His Majesty's illness, and the gladness of the people on the King's recovery was universal.

96. Taking all things into consideration, the year 1902 was an excellent one for the Gambia and the progress made was general.

F. Bisset Archer,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

A.

Statement of Revenue for the Years 1898 to 1902.

Heads of Revenue.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Customs	33,761 16 4	36,250 7 9	39,234 12 4	33,127 2 2	39,443 12 4	
Port dues	905 6 4	1,448 1 6	805 3 0	746 2 6	932 5 0	
Licences, excise, &c.	592 4 8	575 11 7	558 15 9	785 9 9	623 8 10	
Fees of court or office, &c.	657 0 1	738 13 7	704 9 0	836 0 11	634 5 6	
Post office	2,140 15 9	589 18 10	459 19 0	769 13 8	1,452 13 1	
Government vessels	971 2 6	1,174 8 11	1,135 12 2	521 8 1	401 7 8	
Rents, Government property ...	441 12 11	476 12 4	444 17 6	462 14 6	538 18 9	
Interest...	359 6 4	998 7 11	1,498 3 6	1,990 16 5	1,882 18 9	
Protectorate	3,165 7 3	3,655 8 5	3,288 2 7	3,678 16 5	4,526 2 3	
Miscellaneous receipts...	722 18 8	932 6 9	950 18 11	807 11 8	579 19 5	
Total	43,717 10 10	46,839 17 7	49,080 13 9	43,725 16 1	51,015 11 7	

B.

Statement of Expenditure for the Years 1898 to 1902.

Heads of Expenditure.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pensions	923 10 1	978 18 5	1,030 17 2	1,034 8 6	1,117 17 5	
The Governor	2,016 2 4	2,905 15 8	2,455 7 11	3,258 2 9	2,537 9 3	
The Colonial Secretary	—	—	—	—	1,035 6 3	
The Protectorate	2,358 10 8	2,422 6 10	2,299 12 6	3,115 15 0	4,833 17 2	
Printing Department	174 6 6	162 12 9	188 4 9	202 5 5	292 16 11	
Treasury	946 16 7	1,038 4 6	1,034 8 4	977 11 9	442 2 1	
Customs Department	1,721 12 6	1,668 14 11	1,922 13 7	1,881 12 4	1,913 8 3	
Post Office	578 2 6	453 7 0	370 6 11	450 5 1	530 4 4	
Audit Department	345 9 2	319 3 0	344 12 4	413 0 2	425 6 5	
Judicial ,, ...	1,124 13 3	1,480 4 8	1,405 14 7	1,392 12 8	1,246 0 1	
Attorney-General	—	—	—	—	398 18 5	
Education	434 1 2	408 6 8	416 13 4	504 0 2	500 15 6	
Frontier force	—	—	—	—	4,801 9 8	
Police	4,018 16 1	4,174 3 0	4,031 4 7	4,583 18 1	3,878 13 4	
Prisons	758 17 11	796 5 8	680 8 0	802 13 0	711 0 10	
Medical Department	1,090 3 11	1,065 12 1	1,070 17 0	1,213 17 0	1,868 9 4	
Hospitals, &c.	511 7 2	457 10 8	592 2 11	809 7 11	883 5 6	
Manager of Kommbo	163 1 3	151 1 3	151 1 3	150 5 6	54 13 5	
Government vessels	1,738 1 3	1,710 0 11	1,580 1 10	1,776 11 11	1,998 1 10	
Charitable allowances	87 17 2	88 15 9	89 1 9	87 3 6	89 0 9	
Transport	642 1 4	672 8 6	575 9 0	1,033 16 5	563 18 2	
Miscellaneous services,...	1,445 13 0	1,572 12 9	1,657 12 6	1,752 6 3	3,110 4 5	
Drawback, &c.	96 2 0	27 18 2	28 15 0	118 2 7	70 10 10	
Colonial Engineer's Department ...	734 6 9	874 14 3	982 11 6	1,116 18 11	1,287 10 7	

Statement of Expenditure for the Years 1898 to 1902.—*cont.*

Heads of Expenditure.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Public works recurrent	2,424 16 5	1,448 15 9	2,528 1 4	3,065 2 9	4,047 2 10	
,, extraordinary	3,660 15 9	2,946 2 2	2,910 15 1	4,805 13 10	6,288 0 5	
Agriculture	315 13 9	327 14 2	238 9 10	145 18 2	136 13 0	
Special services...	535 0 0	2,097 5 0	1,093 19 6	13,826 16 11	4,472 15 5	
Native affairs	189 7 0	156 0 5	138 16 10	—	—	
Total	29,035 5 6	30,404 14 11	29,817 19 4	48,518 6 7	51,535 12 5	

C.

Comparative Statement of Receipts and Payments of the Board of Health for the Years 1898 to 1902.

Receipts.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances—					
1st January...	132 6 0	248 2 7	107 3 9	—	—
Local Rates ...	518 6 6	527 11 0	529 19 0	526 13 0	549 12 0
Sale of Stores ...	—	—	—	0 9 8	1 1 9
Slaughter-house Fees.	76 10 0	79 11 3	71 12 9	96 1 3	93 18 0
Grant-in-Aid ...	200 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	1,000 0 0
Excess of Payments.	—	—	29 13 11	47 2 10	—
	927 2 6	1,055 4 10	938 9 5	870 6 9	1,644 11 9

Payments.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Excess of Payments	—	—	—	29 13 11	47 2 10
Salaries	60 0 0	66 11 3	72 0 0	72 0 0	87 4 3
Cleaning Drains, &c.	352 6 9	360 7 3	438 13 3	365 18 6	646 16 1
Miscellaneous ...	266 13 2	521 2 10	427 16 2	402 14 4	527 5 10
	678 19 11	948 1 1	938 9 5	870 6 9	1,308 9 0
Balance— 31st December...	248 2 7	107 3 9	—	—	336 2 9
	927 2 6	1,055 4 10	938 9 5	870 6 9	1,644 11 9

D.

Comparative Statement of Principal Articles of Imports for the Years 1901 and 1902.

Imports.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton goods	2,034	3,113	44,262	66,052	21,790	—
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Tobacco ...	255,285	237,795	6,505	6,137	—	368
Kola nuts ...	843,822	817,446	21,008	28,577	7,569	—
	Gals.	Gals.				
Spirits ...	34,967	27,567	4,531	4,481	—	50
Wine ...	17,689	18,658	2,314	2,021	—	93
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Sugar ...	3,313	4,533	2,903	3,691	788	—
	Tons.	Tons.				
Salt	1,818	1,648	1,529	1,158	—	371
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder ...	219	175	360	236	—	24
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Rice	86,986	39,610	38,539	15,847	—	22,692

E.

Return showing the Total Imports for the last Five Years 1898 to 1902.

Articles.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	59,030	69,335	83,251	67,552	115,376
Other articles ...	187,062	171,572	194,408	185,095	188,239
Total ...	246,092	240,907	277,659	252,647	303,615

F.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of EXPORTS for the YEARS 1901 and 1902.

Exports.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground nuts	25,750	31,612	172,405	193,485	21,080	—
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Rubber ...	146,573	65,283	8,963	4,238	—	4,725
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels	153	137	971	945	—	26
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Wax... ...	63,898	43,544	2,806	1,843	—	963
Hides ...	2,148	2,215	475	520	45	—

G.

RETURN showing the TOTAL EXPORTS for the last FIVE YEARS 1898 to 1902.

Articles	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	2,722	7,439	41,271	39,212	37,790
Other articles ...	245,110	234,497	240,705	194,455	210,350
Total ...	247,832	241,936	281,976	233,667	248,140

H.

RETURN showing TOTAL SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS for the last FIVE YEARS.

Years.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1898...	225,385	102,760	328,145
1899...	210,690	73,945	284,635
1900...	198,099	63,170	261,269
1901...	220,098	64,973	285,071
1902...	188,546	98,332	286,878
tal	1,042,818	403,180	1,445,998

J.

RETURN showing TONNAGE and NATIONALITY of STEAMERS and SAILING VESSELS INWARDS and OUTWARDS during the YEARS 1901 and 1902.

Nationality of Vessels.	1901.			1902.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	220,016	82	220,098	188,462	84	188,546
French	29,433	3,374	32,807	43,484	2,136	45,620
German	5,867	—	5,867	22,668	—	22,668
Belgian	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian	3,868	—	3,868	3,868	—	3,868
American	—	4,459	4,459	—	4,079	4,079
Norwegian ...	3,880	—	3,880	7,216	—	7,216
Italian	—	—	—	4,540	—	4,540
Austrian	5,408	1,602	7,010	1,748	—	1,748
Greek	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	2,000	—	2,000
Dutch	2,306	—	2,306	1,850	—	1,850
Danish	1,883	—	1,883	1,858	—	1,858
Spanish	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese ...	—	2,893	2,893	—	2,885	2,885
Total... ...	272,661	12,410	285,071	277,694	9,184	286,878

K.

Comparative Statement of Savings Bank Deposits and Withdrawals for the Years 1898 to 1902.

Total of	Balance from Past Year.	Amount Deposited.	Total.	Amount Withdrawn.	Balance Remaining.	Interest Allowed.	Total due to Depositors.	No. of Deposits.	No. of Withdrawals.	No. of Accounts from Past Year.	Accounts Re-opened.	New Accounts Opened.	Accounts Closed.	Accounts Remaining.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.							
1898 ...	2,562 6 9	2,811 17 3	5,374 4 0	1,567 4 0	3,807 0 0	78 2 3½	3,882 9 1	415	211	169	9	39	25	192
1899 ...	3,882 9 0	2,456 6 8	6,338 15 8	1,366 13 1½	4,972 2 6½	113 13 10½	5,082 13 1	354	206	192	8	25	22	203
1900 ...	5,082 13 1	1,856 4 0	6,938 17 1	2,278 10 6	4,660 6 7	118 3 7½	4,777 4 10	365	196	203	3	31	18	219
1901 ...	4,777 4 10	2,038 11 10½	6,815 16 8½	1,912 8 1½	4,903 8 7	117 12 4	5,019 6 7½	357	224	219	5	30	16	238
1902 ...	5,019 6 7½	2,051 9 10	7,070 16 5½	2,354 7 11½	4,716 8 6	117 17 11½	4,831 17 8	385	197	238	5	43	11	275

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 391.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1904.

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No. 424.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 391.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The total revenue for the year amounted to £55,564. This is the largest revenue ever collected in the Colony, and is an increase of £4,548 on that of 1902.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1902 and 1903, as also the several increases and decreases.

Heads of Revenue.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	39,444	41,629	2,185	—
Port dues	932	1,014	82	—
Licenses, Excise, &c.	623	1,108	485	—
Fees of court or office, &c. ...	634	740	106	—
Post Office	1,453	553	—	900
Government vessels	401	434	33	—
Rents, Government property ...	539	382	—	157
Interest	1,883	1,794	—	89
Miscellaneous receipts	580	1,541	961	—
Protectorate	4,526	6,349	1,823	—
Land sales	—	20	20	—
Total	51,015	55,564	5,695	1,146

3. The increases were principally due, under Customs, to increased importations of *ad valorem* goods in anticipation of a good trading season following the ground nut crop, and to the additional duties received on exported ground nuts; under Licenses, to the revision and extension of the Spirit License Laws; under Protectorate, to increases in all the items of revenue; and under Miscellaneous, to the sale of ammunition to the Sierra Leone and Nigerian Governments, and to the sale of

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presents, in the shape of cattle, &c., received from the chiefs of the several districts.

4. The decreases were due, under Post Office, to a smaller sale of stamps to dealers, and under rents of Government property, to the receipts hitherto brought to account under that head being transferred to "Protectorate."

5. The amount of revenue received under Customs was, Import Duty £26,471 and Export Duty £15,158, making a total of £41,629.

6. The expenditure for the year amounted to £67,504, being an increase of £15,969 on that of the previous year. It may be mentioned that this large increase was mainly due to this Government having to pay the War Office during the year the sum of £11,445 on account of the expenses incurred by that Department in connection with the 1901 Expedition.

7. The following return shows the items of expenditure for the years 1902 and 1903 together with the various increases and decreases.

Heads of Expenditure.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	1,118	749	—	369
The Governor	2,537	2,896	359	—
The Colonial Secretary	1,035	1,167	132	—
The Protectorate	4,834	5,779	945	—
Printing Department	293	622	329	—
Treasury	442	1,011	569	—
Customs Department	1,913	1,927	14	—
Post Office	530	620	90	—
Audit Department	425	505	80	—
Judicial „	1,246	1,225	—	21
Attorney-General	399	512	113	—
Education...	501	849	348	—
Frontier Force	4,801	5,744	943	—
Police	3,879	4,324	445	—
Prisons	711	706	—	5
Medical Department	1,868	2,201	333	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	883	818	—	65
Manager of Kommbo	55	—	—	55
Government vessels	1,998	2,272	274	—
Charitable allowances	89	91	2	—
Transport...	564	897	333	—
Miscellaneous services	3,110	2,501	—	609
Drawback, &c.	71	33	—	38
Agriculture	137	587	450	—
Colonial Engineer's Department	1,288	1,532	244	—
Public works recurrent	4,047	5,224	1,177	—
„ extraordinary ...	8,288	11,710	3,422	—
Special services	4,473	11,002	6,529	—
Total	51,535	67,504	17,131	1,162

8. The increases were mainly due under :—

Governor—To the office of Private Secretary having been vacant for the greater part of 1902, and to the item for the upkeep of furniture being transferred to this head from that of Public Works.

Protectorate—To increased allowances and presents to chiefs, and to prizes given for the upkeep of roads in the five districts.

Printing—To the purchase of new printing presses and type.

Treasury—To the salary of the Treasurer for the previous year being charged to the vote for the Colonial Secretary, whose duties he was performing.

Education—To an increase in the grants to European Superintendents and to the provision for Teachers in the Mohammedan School ; and to a portion of the grant to the Industrial School for 1902 being paid in 1903.

Frontier Force—To the purchase of clothing, to a grant for the purchase of furniture, &c., to start an officers' mess, and to a vote for transport having to be provided in 1903.

Police—To the purchase of clothing under the new regulations.

Medical—To the increase of salaries provided under the West African Medical Staff scheme, and to provision for an additional medical officer.

Government Vessels—To provision having to be made for the crew of the steam launch "Thistle," and to the increased purchase of fuel.

Transport—To the increased travelling of officers, and to the transport to Senegal of prisoners of war received from Moussa Molloh.

Agriculture—To the engagement of a cotton expert, and purchase of agricultural implements.

Colonial Engineer—To the employment of an additional Clerk of Works.

Public Works Recurrent—To repairs to roads and upkeep of bridges, and to the unadjusted account for stores and materials.

Public Works Extraordinary—To the erection of two bungalows, extensive repairs to the military barracks, and the special purchase of furniture for officers' quarters.

Special Services—To the payment of the claim of the War Office for special expenditure incurred during the Expedition of 1901.

9. The decreases were under :—

Pensions—To special gratuities being made in 1902.

Miscellaneous—To a decreased purchase of stationery, and to smaller grant (£600) to the Board of Health.

10. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	46,840	30,405
1900	49,081	29,818
1901	43,726	48,518
1902	51,016	51,537
1903	55,564	67,504
Total ...	246,227	227,782

(B.) Taxation.

11. During the year the Customs Tariff Ordinance was amended, whereby the duty on sweetened spirits was raised from 2*s.* to 4*s.* the gallon, the duty on unsweetened spirits from 3*s.* to 4*s.* the proof gallon, and on brandy from 3*s.* to 4*s.* the gallon.

12. The Spirit License Ordinance was also repealed and a new law enacted, which was extended to the Protectorate. Under it a yearly license for the sale of spirits in Bathurst, not to be consumed on the premises, was raised from £10 to £15 ; a license for the sale of spirits in Bathurst, to be consumed on the premises, was raised from £30 to £50 : and the £10 wholesale or retail licenses which formerly only applied to the trading stations at Barra, Albreda and McCarthy Islands were extended to the whole of the Protectorate.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

13. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1903, was £47,677, which is invested in various Colonial Government securities. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony at the close of the previous year was £59,602.

(D.) Public Debt.

14. The Colony has no public debt.

(E.) Currency.

Rate of Exchange.

15. The bank rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was 1 per cent.

Coin in Circulation.

16. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony is estimated at £137,000, made up as follows :—Bank of England notes, £250 ; British gold, £12,500 ; British silver, £35,000 ; French gold, £150 ; French five-franc pieces, locally known as "dollars," £90,000.

17. During the year specie to the value of £126,273 was imported, and £43,277 was exported. These totals were made up as under :—

——	Imported.	Exported.
	£	£
British gold ...	8,072	1,200
„ silver ...	26,647	9,519
French gold ...	—	—
„ silver ...	91,554	32,558
Total ...	126,273	43,277

(F.) Municipalities, Local Boards, &c.

18. The only Board of this nature in the Colony is the Board of Health, which is responsible for the sanitary condition of the town of Bathurst. It consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Colonial Engineer, the Superintendent of Police, a Medical Officer, and three of the leading inhabitants of the town. Its revenue is derived from (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property, 3 per cent. ; (2) slaughter house fees ; and (3) a grant-in-aid from the Government. The following revenue was received under these heads during the year :—

	£	s.	d.
Local rates	543	0	0
Slaughter house fees	96	0	0
Grant-in-aid	400	0	0
	£1,039	0	0

To this amount must be added a balance of £336 brought forward from the previous year.

19. The total expenditure for the same period, accounted for under the following heads, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	99	0	0
Cleaning drains, &c.	628	0	0
Mosquito sanitation and miscellaneous services ...	535	0	0
Amounted to	1,262	0	0
Leaving a balance to be carried forward to the year 1904, of	113	0	0

20. The following figures show the revenue and expenditure of the Board for the past five years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	1,055	948
1900	938	938
1901	870	870
1902	1,645	1,304
1903	1,375	1,262

21. Previous to 1902 the Board received an annual grant-in-aid of £200 ; in that year, however, this amount was raised to £1,000 in order to enable the Board to carry out special work in connection with what may be termed mosquito sanitation work, and in order to continue it, a grant of £400 was made in 1903.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—Imports.

22. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £341,063, being an increase of £37,448 on the imports of 1902, which were valued at £303,615, due principally to increases under specie of £10,897, under rice of £6,692, and under kola nuts of £4,243, and under sugar of £976. Although the total decrease in the value of cotton goods imported amounted to £1,182, there was an increased importation of this item from France of £1,243 as compared with the previous year. The increase in the value of kola nuts is attributed to the fluctuations of the market, as, although the value shows an increase of £4,243,

the revenue collected under this head shows a decrease of £74 as compared with 1902.

23. The increase in rice is due to the planters having to a certain extent neglected everything for ground nuts in the hope that they would obtain as good prices for that article as they did in the previous year.

24. The importations of spirits show a slight decrease as compared with 1902, which is no doubt owing to the duties having been raised in the last quarter of the year.

25. The value of the imports may be classified as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Specific commercial imports ...	70,839	0	0
Ad valorem, „ „ ...	126,061	0	0
Free „ „ ...	136,875	0	0
	333,775	0	0
Free Government imports ...	7,287	0	0
Total value of imports ...	341,062	0	0

26. The following return gives the principal articles of import for the years 1902 and 1903 :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton goods	3,113	2,889	66,052	64,870	—	1,182
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Tobacco ...	237,795	259,027	6,137	6,501	364	—
Kola nuts ...	915,954	759,270	28,577	32,820	4,243	—
	Gals.	Gals.				
Spirits ...	27,567	27,067	4,481	4,140	—	341
Wine ...	18,658	16,606	2,021	2,372	351	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Sugar ...	4,533	5,619	3,691	4,667	976	—
	Tons.	Tons.				
Salt	1,648	1,240	1,158	1,041	—	117
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder...	175	282	236	506	270	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Rice	39,610	49,995	15,847	22,539	6,692	—

27. The value of the imports for the last five years was as under :—

Articles.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	69,355	83,251	67,552	115,376	126,273
Other articles ...	171 572	194,408	185,095	188,239	214,790
Total ...	240,907	277,659	252,647	303,615	341,063

28. The following return may be interesting as showing the total value of imports, exclusive of specie, for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with their averages :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	88,781	35,256	28,202	979	18,353	171,572
1900 ...	102,121	41,103	35,932	3,009	12,241	194,408
1901 ...	91,289	23,196	46,620	832	23,158	185,095
1902 ...	103,706	30,241	33,932	1,891	18,418	188,239
1903 ...	105,629	34,658	37,906	6,338	30,259	214,790
Total	491,526	164,454	182,642	13,049	102,428	954,104
Average	98,305	32,851	36,524	2,610	20,486	190,821

(B.) Exports.

29. The total value of exports for the year amounted to £334,017 as compared with £248,140 in the previous year ; an increase of £86,877.

30. The total value of exports, exclusive of specie, for 1903 was £290,740, and for 1902, £210,350, an increase in favour of 1903 of £80,390.

31. The whole of this increase can be attributed to ground nuts, which show an increased value of £81,909 over the quantity exported in 1902. The tonnage of the nuts exported in 1902 was 31,612 tons, of the value of £193,485, while in 1903 the tonnage was 45,777 tons of the value af £275,394. This is the largest quantity ever exported from the Colony.

32. The destination of these nuts was as follows :—

Country.	Tonnage.	Value.
	Tons.	£
Great Britain ...	613	5,013
France	41,701	252,372
Holland... ...	1,905	9,979
Denmark ...	1,250	8,000
Other countries	7	30
Total ...	45,476	275,394

33. The only other item under exports showing an increase is hides. During the year 4,308 hides, of the value of £1,014, were exported, as compared with 2,215, of the value of £520, in 1902, which was an increase on the previous year. In this connection it may be mentioned that previous to the years 1892 and 1893, when nearly all the cattle in the country died, large quantities of hides were annually exported from the Colony. The trade for several years past has been gradually reviving.

34. There was a decrease in the export of rubber to the amount of £2,694. This may be attributed to the tappers having to go farther afield to collect it, and to their taking it to the nearer French port of Cassamance.

35. There were other slight decreases in palm kernels and bees' wax.

36. The following return shows the principal articles of export for the years 1902 and 1903 :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground nuts	31,612	45,477	193,485	275,394	81,909	—
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Rubber ...	65,283	19,551	4,238	1,544	—	2,694
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels	137	109	945	793	—	152
	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Wax... ...	43,544	38,640	1,843	1,589	—	254
Hides ...	2,215	4,308	520	1,014	494	—

37. The value of the exports for the last five years were as under :—

Articles.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	7,439	41,271	39,212	37,790	43,277
Other articles ...	234,497	240,705	194,455	210,350	290,740
Total ...	241,936	281,976	233,667	248,140	334,017

38. The value of the total exports, exclusive of specie, for the last five years, and the countries to which they were exported, were as follows :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	23,243	1,981	180,082	2,529	26,662	234,497
1900 ...	14,326	1,740	193,779	3,008	27,851	240,704
1901 ...	17,936	2,090	148,723	4,950	20,755	194,454
1902 ...	11,393	1,469	152,278	5,794	39,416	210,350
1903 ...	9,405	2,546	254,114	6,650	18,025	290,740
Total...	76,303	9,826	928,976	22,931	132,709	1,170,745

39. The following return, showing the value of the total exports, and the quantities and values of the principal articles of export for each decade of the last seventy years, may, I trust, be of interest :—

RETURN showing VALUE of the TOTAL, and PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of EXPORT for the undermentioned Years.

Articles.		1833.	1843.	1853.	1863.	1873.	1883.	1893.	1903.	Remarks.
Ground nuts (tons)	1	—	2,680	11,226	12,881	10,371	23,094	25,218	45,477	1 Quantity. 2 Value in pounds sterling.
" "	2	—	£32,899	£135,404	£103,048	£98,000	£170,164	£172,765	£275,394	
Hides (number) ..	1	76,900	98,723	68,449	79,874	9,760	16,167	18,298	4,308	
" ...	2	£15,380	£19,4[illegible]9	£13,689	£15,975	£1,952	£4,305	£1,515	£1,014	
Ivory (lbs.) ...	1	29,240	12,841	9,994	7,219	508	692	701	1,071	
" ...	2	£5 117	£2,569	£1,999	£1,444	£60	£89	£180	£167	
Wax (tons) ...	1	175	261	125	60	44	60	21	38,640	
" ...	2	£15,210	£37,744	£17,719	£9,022	£5,227	£4,628	£2,143	£1,589	
Corn	1	3,636	495	—	—	1,245	6,758	—	—	
"	2	£3,151	£652	—	—	£395	£1,366	—	—	
Carnwood (tons)...	1	74	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	
" ...	2	£1,043	£1,088	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Gum (tons) ...	1	275	90	6	9,072	—	—	—	—	
" ...	2	£13,750	£5,405	£300	£208	—	—	—	—	
Palm kernels(tons)	1	—	—	—	—	—	142	343	2,177	
" " ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	£1,223	£1,723	£793	
Rubber (lbs.) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	52,003	45,298	91,551	
" ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	£6,048	£2,619	£1,544	
Total value of exports		£66,221	£134,513	£185,825	£141,674	£110 317	£208,120	£239,720	290,740	

(C.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

40. There are no mines in the Colony.

41. During 1830 and 1840 it is estimated that between 1,500 to 2,000 ozs. of gold brought from the upper waters of the Gambia were shipped annually, the largest shipment being in 1833, when 4,139 ozs. were exported. In recent years there have been no shipments, although from time to time a small quantity of gold can be obtained from the local so-called goldsmiths.

42. A number of narrow strips of cloth, of an average width of five to six inches and varying in length from two to six yards, are made throughout the Colony. These strips are known as "Bandy cloths," and when stitched together are called "Pagns." They make handsome coverings, and are much prized by the natives. Formerly it was usual for the natives to exchange these cloths in the rainy season with the traders for rice and other articles of food, and to buy them back as soon as they had reaped their crops. Large stocks of them, valued at from £40,000 to £50,000, used to be held by the merchants in Bathurst; but with the introduction of a cash trade these stocks have gradually decreased, and for the past few years it may be said that the value of the "Pagns" held by the merchants collectively has not exceeded £50 annually.

43. A small quantity of pottery is also made in the Colony.

44. A considerable number of people at Bathurst are engaged in fishing. A number of fishermen also come to the river from the French side of the Jinnack Creek and catch large quantities of a coarse kind of fish, which is sun dried, and eventually taken up the river and exchanged at the numerous "wharves" with the natives for rice and corn, &c. The supply of fresh fish is good and the price reasonable. The following kinds of fish can be obtained, viz.:—Sole, barracouta, mangrove, a kind of turbot, turtle, mullet, snapper, prawns, and oysters.

(D.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

The Ground Nut.

45. The cultivation of the ground nut is the principal industry throughout the Colony. This year the crop, as previously stated, amounted to 45,774 tons, of the value of £275,394. This is the largest output ever known in the Colony. It may be of interest to note that the first export of this nut, according to the records of the Colony, was in 1830, when ten baskets, of the value of one pound, were shipped to the West Indies. To those who do not realise that the ground nut, which originally came from Brazil, is the breath and life of the Gambia, it may be of interest to mention that the nuts are usually planted after the first rains

in June and mature in about five months. They are reaped towards the end of October or beginning of November and placed in large heaps in the fields. Early in January the nuts are "beaten," as it is termed, in order to separate them from the vines, and from the soil which has clung to them. The clouds of dust raised by this beating can be seen for miles distant. The nuts are then collected and brought to the factories, from whence they are shipped direct to Marseilles, where they are crushed in mills and the oil extracted. The oil of the ground nut, which is said to be as much as 40 to 50 per cent. of the weight of the shelled nut, is pleasant to taste and smell, and very closely resembles the best olive oil, for which it is largely sold. The lower grades of oil are used for lubricating purposes and also in the manufacture of soap. After the oil is extracted the refuse is converted into cake or meal for feeding cattle, &c. The best or picked nuts, which command about double the price of the ordinary nuts, are usually shipped to England for confectionery purposes.

46. Practically the whole of the male population is engaged in this industry for about eight months of the year. At the commencement of the planting season a number of what are termed "strange farmers" come into the Protectorate, often from a great distance. When a "strange farmer" arrives at a village he reports himself to the chief or headman, stating the amount of land he wishes to cultivate, which is generally about double the quantity taken up by the local planter; a farm is given to him and he immediately sets to work. For the four or five months the crop is growing the headman or landlord into whose care he has been given has to house and feed him until it is reaped, when half the nuts are taken by the landlord in payment for board and lodging for the five months and the other half are the property of the "strange farmer," who, as soon as he has sold them, disappears, and is often not heard of again for years. The number of "strange farmers" visiting the Protectorate during the planting season of 1903 was nearly 6,000. The average yield of ground nuts per acre is between 60 to 80 bushels, for which the natives were paid this year on the average 1*s.* a bushel. In the previous year the price averaged between 2*s.* to 3*s.* the bushel. In former years nuts were sold by the measure, the price for which was 2*s.* The price never altered; but the measure, which contained anything between 52 to 68 lbs. of nuts, often did. With the introduction of the cash trade, however, the measure has gradually disappeared, the natives now selling by weight, a system they much prefer.

Cotton.

47. During the early part of 1902 a supply of American and Egyptian cotton seed was received and distributed among the chiefs in the Protectorate, the actual quantities distributed being as follows:—

	lbs.
American seed	1,325
Egyptian „	1,185

The result cannot be said to have been very satisfactory, as only 578 lbs. of lint were shipped to England. The failure of the crop was attributed by the natives to the seed being planted too early in the season; but it is much more likely that it was due to want of care and attention on the part of the farmers, who probably thought that if the first crop was a failure the white man would give up any further trials, and they would be allowed to continue their ground nut planting in peace. The first shipment of 112 lbs. of lint was said to have been obtained from 137 lbs. of seed cotton, while the second shipment of 354 lbs. of lint was said to have been obtained from 384 lbs. of seed cotton, inclusive of the weight of the bags which contained it. In view of the fact that in the United States, where cotton is grown under the most favourable circumstances, the average yield is 1 lb. of lint to 3 lbs. of seed cotton, it is hardly necessary to say that the above weights must have been carelessly arrived at. Taking the average I think it may safely be said that in the first year of our experiment the yield of lint was about 1 lb. to every 4 lbs. of seed cotton. The first shipment of 112 lbs. of lint when sold in England realised 6½*d.* a lb., and it is believed that a much better price could have been obtained had there been a larger quantity offered. With regard to this consignment the brokers reported that "these cottons show a great improvement on the usual rough West African cottons which come to this market, and it is our belief that with careful cultivation cotton may be grown, and if properly picked and ginned when sent to this market would obtain equal prices with American upland cotton." The second shipment of 354 lbs. only sold for a trifle over 4*d.* a lb.; but of this consignment it is only fair to say that it was made up of numerous small parcels received from various parts of the Protectorate. Another special shipment of 28 lbs. of lint, the result of 112 lbs. of seed cotton picked in the Upper River district and ginned by the native method, when sent to England sold for 6*d.* a lb. The brokers reported it to be clean, of good colour and staple and about equal to good middling American. They further added, "This is the quality of cotton wanted by the English spinners."

48. Early in the year 1903, a cotton expert, selected and sent out under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association, arrived in the Colony and proceeded to the Upper River, and subsequently to the other districts, to report on the suitability or otherwise of the soil for cotton growing, and to explain to the chiefs and people the best methods of cultivating it. The soil, which may be said, with the exception of the Upper River district and perhaps a part of Fogni which is more loamy, to be of a light sandy nature, was reported to be admirably suited for the growing of cotton, but the doubt was whether the native could be got to believe that cotton cultivation could be made as profitable to him as that of the ground nut, and to realise that any alteration in his present method of growing it would result

in a larger yield. To bring about this end it was decided to establish an experimental farm in the Upper River district, which appears to have produced the best results and where also the people, who are more accustomed to the growing of cotton, appeared to have entered into the spirit of the new venture with more heart than had been the case elsewhere. At this stage it was thought desirable that the expert should proceed on a short leave to England and return to the Colony early in July, when the first rains would have fallen, so as to be able to supervise not only the starting of the plantation but to pay flying visits to the other districts to see that the sowing of the seed was being systematically and properly carried out. Pending his return to the Colony every opportunity was taken by the Commissioners to impress upon the people the importance of the industry not being allowed to drop, and arrangements were made for the distribution of a further supply of imported seed in all the districts. Unfortunately the expert did not return to the Colony until the end of July, when a difficulty arose in regard to his proceeding to the Upper River to commence operations on the experimental farm, with the result that after a fortnight's further delay he sent in his resignation, which was accepted. This incident retarded matters a little; but steps were at once taken to distribute the seed as allotted to the various districts, the interpreters of which were directed to see that the instructions which had already been issued were carefully carried out. As regards the Upper River, from which the best results were anticipated, it fortunately happened that its Commissioner, who was due for leave but had been detained in the Colony in connection with other important matters in his district, was still in Bathurst. It was therefore arranged that he should proceed to the Upper River and supervise the distribution and sowing of the seed. The universal complaint was that the seed had arrived too late to produce any satisfactory result; but in the case of the Upper River no time was lost, and the Commissioner on his return to Bathurst was able to report that consequent on the instructions issued from time to time there had been a considerable improvement in the method of the preparation of the land and sowing of the seed as compared with the previous year, suitable farms having been selected and well ploughed—although in some few instances the native method of planting in patches had still been adhered to. It was estimated that in the Upper River alone about 200 acres had been planted with imported seed and another 200 acres with native seed. Altogether about 8 tons of American seed, from which it was considered better results had been obtained in the previous year as compared with Egyptian seed, were distributed to the people, of which 4 tons went to the Upper River.

49. In 1902 the Government bought the cotton grown from the imported seed at 1½*d.* a lb. With this price the natives were very dissatisfied, as formerly they had been able to sell it among themselves at 2*d.* to 3*d.* a lb. for the purpose of making the "Pagns" already referred to.

50. The crop for 1903, which will be about 50 to 60 tons of seed cotton, is being purchased by the Government at the rate of 2*d.* per lb., a price which is readily accepted. In order to encourage the growing of cotton in the Colony this price answers the purpose admirably, but from a commercial point of view it cannot be regarded as a profit-making experiment even at the present inflated price of lint. In a short time, when the supply is equal to the demand, I am afraid it will not be possible to give more than 1*d.* a lb. for seed cotton. Then it is to be feared the native will again turn his mind to the extended cultivation of the ground nut.

51. At the present time the yield may be said to be about 300 lbs. of seed cotton to the acre; this at 2*d.* a lb. gives the planter £2 10*s.* The same area of land in ground nuts would yield about 60 bushels, which at 1*s.* a bushel, would realise £3. In this connection, however, it must not be forgotten that the price of cotton is somewhat inflated and that ground nuts are at their lowest in the European market. On the other hand, there is no reason why, as the result of careful cultivation, the yield from cotton should not be raised to 450 lbs. per acre. As regards this article of commerce it can be said that its cultivation is not new to the Gambia, for, not only do the records show that in 1843 68,978 lbs. were exported, but that in 1862 one ton of Egyptian seed was shipped by the Manchester Association to the then Governor of the Gambia with the result that 47 tons of raw cotton were purchased from the natives. It is somewhat curious in regard to the present local price of cotton to notice Governor D'Arcy reporting on the Blue Book for 1862 that "the grower, from some unexplained cause, cannot sell it under 2½*d.* per lb. in its raw state."

Rice.

52. This article is grown throughout the Colony wherever small streams or swamp lands are to be found. Unlike the ground nut, its cultivation is carried on entirely by women. Although superior to and much preferred to the imported rice, the local crop goes a very little way towards supplying the wants of the people. Many kinds are grown, which vary as much as two to three months in the time they take in arriving at maturity. The importance of having so many varieties can be at once appreciated.

53. The quantity of rice imported during the past five years was as follows:—

1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Cwt. 35,900	Cwt. 53,642	Cwt. 86,986	Cwt. 39,610	Cwt. 49,840

54. As recently as 1897 this rice was usually sold to the natives at 24*s.* for a bag of 90 lbs. weight, and at times as much as 30*s.* a bag has been charged. With the introduction of the cash system, however, the fall in the price of rice, as of a good many other articles, has been considerable, the natives now being able to purchase a bag of 90 lbs. weight at from 10*s.* to 12*s.*

Other Crops.

55. Large crops of millet, of which there are several kinds, are also grown.

56. A fair supply of sweet potatoes, tomatoes, ochros, pumpkins, and shalots are also to be obtained.

57. Several kinds of gourds are grown. The coarse sort are made into calabashes and used for carrying water, &c. A very delicate variety which grows to a length of about three feet and is about three inches in diameter at the largest end, makes an excellent substitute for the best of vegetable marrows.

58. English vegetables, such as cabbages, carrots, turnips, radishes, lettuces, beetroot, and French beans, &c., are grown by almost all the Europeans.

59. As regards fruit, the Gambia, compared with other parts of the coast, is badly supplied. To a certain extent, oranges of an excellent quality, limes, bananas, and pawpaws can be obtained when in season. Mangoes can also be purchased, but they are, as a rule, too strongly flavoured with turpentine to be pleasant to the taste.

60. A botanic station was established in 1894 but, owing chiefly to the site selected being unsuitable, it has not been a success. A few labourers are kept on to look after the trees planted about the grounds and to tend the cattle received in the form of presents from time to time from the chiefs in the districts.

Timber.

61. The question has often been asked whether it would not be possible to make timber an article of export from this Colony.

62. There is no doubt that a number of mahogany and rosewood trees are to be found in the Protectorate, but they are too scattered for this industry to be profitably developed.

63. Between 1895 and 1899 several merchants interested themselves in timber and invested about £2,000 in rails and other materials for the transport of the logs from the forest to the river bank. As a result, about 1,000 logs, averaging 1¼ tons

each, and of the value of £4,645, were shipped, but at the end of 1899, owing to the venture not proving sufficiently attractive, the export was abandoned.

64. This year the Government made a further experiment by shipping to Liverpool a log of rosewood of the weight of 1 ton 17 cwt., which was sold for £5 a ton. The colour of the wood was reported as being bad and its texture harsh and stringy. From a commercial point of view the experiment was not a success, as, exclusive of freight, the cost of the log was £10 7*s.* 8*d.*, whereas it only realised £7 15*s.*

General value of Land.

65. In the town of Bathurst land for building purposes is valued at about £200 the acre. In other parts of the Colony the price is low.

(E.) Shipping.

66. The total tonnage for the year was 387,717 tons, an increase of 100,839 tons as compared with the tonnage of 1902, which was 286,878. This increase was due chiefly to the additional tonnage required in connection with the increased export of ground nuts, and to Messrs. Elder Dempster's monthly steamers from London calling at this port on their outward voyage.

67. The following return gives in detail the total tonnage and nationality of the shipping for 1902 and 1903 :—

Nationality of Vessels.	1902.			1903.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	188,462	84	188,546	248,652	724	249,376
French	43,484	2,136	45,620	76,127	2,273	78,400
German	22,668	—	22,668	25,088	—	25,088
Russian	3,868	—	3,868	8,702	—	8,702
American	—	4,079	4,079	—	3,433	3,433
Norwegian ...	7,216	—	7,216	16,690	--	16,690
Italian	4,540	—	4,540	2,724	—	2,724
Austrian	1,748	—	1,748	—	—	—
Swedish	2,000	—	2,000	—	—	—
Dutch	1,850	—	1,850	1,812	—	1,812
Danish	1,858	—	1,858	—	—	—
Portuguese ...	—	2,885	2,885	—	1,492	1,492
Total... ...	277,694	9,184	286,878	379,795	7,922	387,717

68. The total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years was as under :—

Year.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1899...	210,690	73,945	284,635
1900...	198,099	63,170	261,269
1901...	220,098	64,973	285,071
1902...	188,546	98,332	286,878
1903...	249,376	138,341	387,717
Total	1,066,809	438,761	1,505,570

III.—LEGISLATION.

69. Seventeen Ordinances were passed during the year. The more important were :—

No. 4.—"An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of Designs."

No. 6.—"An Ordinance to enable the Governor to issue Commissions of Inquiry with special powers." Previous to the passing of this Ordinance no provision existed for the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry with powers to compel the attendance of witnesses, &c.

No. 9.—"An Ordinance to provide for the disposal of vacant lands." Prior to the passing of this Ordinance the many lots of land lying vacant in the Colony, more especially in the town of Bathurst, could not be disposed of by the Government owing to the uncertainty as to title. Under this enactment all land lying vacant, or unused, or to which the occupier is unable to produce any title, is vested in the Crown.

No. 11.—"An Ordinance to amend the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1889." The purposes of this Ordinance are to reduce the number of regular courts from five to three in the year, and to make clearer and better provision with regard to the court being open for the disposal of civil business.

No. 13.—"An Ordinance to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors and to make better provision for the prevention of drunkenness." Previous to the passing of this Ordinance there was no restriction on the

sale of intoxicating liquors in the Protectorate, with the result that it was sold pretty well everywhere. Beyond extending the liquor laws to the Protectorate, where £10 is payable in respect of either a wholesale or retail licence, and increasing the rates payable on licences issued in the town of Bathurst in the case of a retail licence from £30 to £50 and in the case of a wholesale licence from £10 to £15, the alterations in the old Ordinance have not been of an important nature.

No. 14.—"An Ordinance to make better provision for the promotion of Education." This Ordinance embodies such of the principles of the former Act as were of a general nature. Provision is also made for Government grants-in-aid to the Wesleyan Mission industrial school and for grants of a special nature, such as grants towards the salaries of teachers holding certificates from training colleges, &c., and the granting of scholarships to children passing from the primary to the secondary schools. Experience having shown it to be necessary, provision has also been made for security being given for the proper application of any grant, and generally, for the proper financial management of any school.

No. 16.—"An Ordinance to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1899." Under this Ordinance the duties on sweetened spirits were raised from 2*s.* to 4*s.* the imperial gallon; those on unsweetened spirits from 3*s.* to 4*s.* the proof gallon; and those on brandy from 3*s.* to 4*s.* the imperial gallon.

IV.—EDUCATION.

70. There are five primary schools at Bathurst and one at McCarthy Island. They are established by and are under the management of the various religious denominations, viz., Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan, and receive grants-in-aid from the Government. The total number of children on the school roll in Bathurst during the year was 1,103 as compared with 978 in 1902, an increase of 125. Notwithstanding the increased number of children on the roll, the total average attendance was less than that of the previous year, the average attendance for 1903 being 655, while in 1902 it was 683. The most noticeable decrease was in the Anglican school.

71. At McCarthy Island the number of children on the roll was 61, and the average attendance 28.

72. The amount of grant earned by the schools during the year was £393, as compared with £475 in the previous year, a decrease of £82.

73. The incomes of the various schools amounted to £879, made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Grants-in-aid (1902)	475	0	0
School fees	108	0	0
Voluntary subscriptions ...	20	0	0
Society or Church grants ...	250	0	0
Other sources	6	0	0
	879	0	0

74. The expenditure of the schools during the year amounted to £879, and can be accounted for as under :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Portion of Government grant paid to teachers	106	0	0
Salaries	689	0	0
Repairs	22	0	0
School materials	37	0	0
Miscellaneous	25	0	0
Total	£879	0	0

Secondary Education.

75. The only secondary school in the Colony is that belonging to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, which was established in 1901, and has an average attendance of 16 scholars, the number on the roll being 19.

Technical School.

76. This school, which is under the management of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and is of an undenominational character, was opened in November, 1902, with five pupils, and at the close of 1903 had 21 pupils on its rolls, which are as many as it can at present accommodate. The school is in charge of a European instructor. The pupils receive theoretical as well as practical lessons in carpentry, masonry, blacksmithing, &c. It has already undertaken work for the public and at the close of the year had earned about £200. In view of the total absence of any skilled mechanics in the Colony, the value of such a school is inestimable. The grant-in-aid of £300 given to it by the Government can only be regarded as well expended.

Mohammedan School.

77. During the year a new school, extremely well built and in every way suited for the purpose, was opened in the central part of the town by the Mohammedans. The opening ceremony, at which the Governor and the representatives of the various schools were present, was of an imposing nature and calculated to interest that section of the community in education. The school is the only one of its class in Bathurst. Three days of the week are devoted to the teaching of Arabic and the Koran, while primary English subjects are taught on the other days. The school opened with 120 pupils. The head teacher was formerly at the Wesleyan school, and the assistant teachers are Mohammedans. The school does not come under the Education Board, but is under the control of a committee whose chairman for the present is the Governor, the members being leading Mohammedans. The salaries of the teachers are paid by the Government.

78. The expenditure incurred by the Government on account of education during the year, exclusive of the salary of the Inspector of Schools, amounted to £849, made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Contribution to salaries of European superintendents...	50	0	0
Contribution to salaries of teachers in Mohammedan school	33	0	0
Grants-in-aid of schools ...	393	0	0
Grant to Wesleyan industrial school	373	0	0
	£849	0	0

79. It will be seen from these figures that a grant of a little more than 13*s.* is made for each of the 1,291 children receiving education, a contribution which will, I feel sure, be found to compare favourably with the grants-in-aid given in the sister Colonies.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

80. There are two Government hospitals in the Colony—the general hospital, consisting of 1st, 2nd and 3rd class wards for men with an adjoining bungalow for women, and a contagious diseases hospital.

81. The total number of patients admitted to the hospital during the year was 581, being an increase of 99 over the number for the previous year. There is no doubt that this increase would have been much larger but for the fact that during four months of the year the main building was in the hands of the staff of the Colonial Engineer.

82. The total number of out-patients treated during the year was 8,477, being an increase of 4,652 on the attendances of the previous year.

83. The daily average of in-patients was 16 as compared with 11 in 1902; and the daily average of out-patients 22 as compared with 9 in the previous year.

84. The main building is an old structure; but during the last two years a large sum has been expended in enlarging and putting it into thorough repair, with the result that the wards are airy and well lighted and have a much more cheerful appearance than formerly. A good operating room has been added, as well as an ante-room, to the European ward.

85. The accommodation in this building is as follows:—

	Beds.
First class ward	4
Second class ward...	10
Third class ward	10
Total...	24

86. The female bungalow was ready for occupation in June. It is a cool and well ventilated building and has accommodation for 12 beds.

87. A portion of the old female bungalow has been utilized for incurable cases, which could not very well be kept in the general wards.

88. There were 23 cases of European officials being placed on the sick list during the year; there were no deaths, and no officer was invalided.

89. As regards the general European community, there were 48 cases on the sick list out of a population of 105. The majority

of the cases were of a trivial character. Two deaths occurred among them ; in both instances the patients were members of the French Catholic Mission, and both had recently arrived from Senegal, where they had been resident from 15 to 20 years. In one case the patient was over 70 years of age, and died during a severe attack of bilious remittent fever ; the other patient died from blackwater fever, of which he had previously had three attacks.

90. As regards native officials, there were 31 admissions to the sick list during the year. There was no death among them.

91. There are no asylums, poor houses, or reformatories in the Colony. Any lunatics are sent to, and cared for at, the Kissy asylum at Sierra Leone. At the close of the year three lunatics were being maintained there at the cost of this Government.

92. The nursing staff of the hospital was strengthened at the beginning of the year by the introduction of three European nursing Sisters. These Sisters belong to the Society of St. Joseph de Cluny, which has its headquarters in Paris. Their engagement in the first instance is for three years. A bungalow has been built for them, which adjoins the hospital. It is a pleasant duty to be able to record that to these ladies, who have not spared themselves any trouble, is due much of the improvement noticeable in the internal arrangements of the hospital, where their presence has given the greatest satisfaction to all classes of the community, especially to the poorer class, who are much more ready to become in-patients than formerly, as they feel that they will now be well cared for.

93. The total expenditure incurred in connection with the medical department during the year was as under ;—

	£
Salaries and allowances	2,236
Maintenance of sick and purchase of medicines, &c.	820
Total	£3,056

94. The receipts for the year were :—

	£
Paying patients	31
Sale of medicines	43
Total	£74

(B.) Savings Bank.

95. There is only one savings bank in the Colony. The total amount remaining on deposit at the end of the year, inclusive of interest, which amounted to £118, was £5,382 as compared with £4,832 in 1902. The amount deposited during the year was £2,291, while the amount withdrawn was £1,857. The number of depositors was 349 as compared with 275 in 1902. No expenses were incurred in connection with the working of the bank, which forms a branch of the Treasury Department.

96. The following figures, showing the transactions of the bank for the past five years, may be of interest :—

Year.	Number of Depositors at close of year.	Amount Deposited.	Amount Withdrawn.	Due to Depositors at the close of each year.
		£	£	£
1899	203	2,456	1,367	5,083
1900	219	1,856	2,279	4,774
1901	238	2,039	1,912	5,019
1902	275	2,051	2,354	4,832
1903	349	2,291	1,857	5,382

97. There are 33 Friendly Societies registered in the Colony under such titles as the "Band of Love," "Conjugal," "Love and Friendly," "Sierra Leone Lovely," &c. They have a total sum of £668 to their credit, and render assistance to their members in case of sickness or death.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

98. The police force consists of a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, and eighty men of other ranks. Sixty-nine non-commissioned officers and men are available for duty in the town of Bathurst, and eleven men are distributed about the Protectorate. The force, which was under its full strength during the year, is composed chiefly of men enlisted from Sierra Leone. The men are trained to the use of arms and may be regarded as a semi-military body. They are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines, and have three seven pounder R.M.L. guns.

99. During the year a thirty-man manual Merryweather fire-engine was imported, and a fire brigade formed, consisting of men of the force. The services of the brigade have not as yet been

requisitioned; but the men are drilled weekly in their duties and have turned out smartly when surprise alarms have been given.

100. A European bandmaster arrived in the Colony during the year for the purpose of training the band of the police as well as the drum and fife band of the West African Frontier Force. Considering the short time they have had the new instruments, the progress made has been most creditable to all concerned. The band now plays every Wednesday afternoon in McCarthy Square to an appreciative audience, and to the delight of all the little ragamuffins in the town, who eagerly wait for the conclusion of the programme to be allowed the privilege of carrying the music stands back to the barracks.

101. The expenditure on account of the force for the year was as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries, &c.	3,464	0	0
Clothing and equipment ...	465	0	0
Sundries	43	0	0
Forage	56	0	0
Passages	37	0	0
Fire-engine	259	0	0
Total	£4,324	0	0

(B.) Prisons.

102. There is only one prison in the Colony, and that is at Bathurst. It has accommodation for 31 male and 5 female prisoners. The number of prisoners in the gaol on the 1st of January was 26. The number admitted during the year was 87, of whom 86 were men and 1 a woman. The number discharged during the year was 81, and 7 prisoners died. The number remaining in gaol on the 31st of December was 24. The daily average number of prisoners for the year was 19·82 as compared with 23·53 in 1902.

103. Of the seven deaths, three were from heart disease and three from beri beri. As regards the latter it may be mentioned that all three cases came from the same village, in which it was afterwards discovered the disease existed. There was one execution during the year.

104. There were only six offences committed by the prisoners. None of them was of a serious nature.

105. The present buildings are old, but are kept in a condition which reflects credit on the responsible officers. During the year eight small cells were converted into four large ones, and increased ventilation given to the other cells. Since these alterations were made—early in the year—there has been a total absence

of beri beri, as also a marked improvement in the health of the prisoners.

106. Formerly no prisoner could be employed outside the gaol until he had completed two-thirds of his sentence; but during the year an order was passed, under which all prisoners sentenced to hard labour for any term exceeding fourteen days could be employed outside the prison on public works. The prisoners were utilized during the year for stone breaking, cleaning Government compounds, and whitewashing the prison walls, &c. The estimated value of the work performed was £105. The total expenditure on the prison was £710. Taking the daily average of prisoners at 19·82, the cost of each prisoner was about £30 11*s.* 6*d.* for the year.

107. There is a Chaplain to the prison, and religious services are regularly held. The clergy of the various denominations are allowed to visit prisoners who may be members of their community.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

108. The number of cases which came before the police court at Bathurst during the year was 190, as compared with 276 in 1902 and 361 in 1901. While a decrease can be shown here, a considerable increase in the cases tried before the Commissioners in the Protectorate has to be recorded, the number being 216 as compared with 129 cases in 1902. The diminution of cases has chiefly been under "other offences," which include offences against the sanitary laws. A decrease in offences against the person has also to be recorded.

109. The number of cases tried in the Supreme Court was 29 as compared with 24 in the previous year. Of these, three were for murder. Only in one instance was the sentence of death pronounced and carried out. Of the remaining two cases, one prisoner died while awaiting trial and the other was proved to be not responsible for his actions. A serious feature of the cases referred to the higher court was the number of offenders belonging to the educated section of the community. In three instances the prisoners were members of the public service, and convictions were obtained in two of the cases. To the credit of the service it must be recorded that such instances are rare.

110. It is of interest to record that, for the first time during the ten years the Protectorate system has been established; an appeal was made from a native court to the Supreme Court, where it is satisfactory to be able to state the judgment of the native court was upheld.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population, &c.

111. The census taken in 1901 gave a total population for the Colony and Protectorate of 90,404. At the time some doubt was expressed as regards the correctness of the figures so far as the Protectorate was concerned, owing to the fact that many of the natives, who were under the impression that the taking of a census was the preliminary to the imposition of a poll tax, went across the boundary to French territory. Since then it has been possible to arrive at a more accurate estimate of the population.

112. The population of the Island of St. Mary, of which Bathurst is the capital, is estimated at 8,807, composed of 4,911 males and 3,896 females.

113. The districts of British Kommbo, the Ceded Mile, and McCarthy Island having been placed under the Protectorate system for administrative purposes, their returns have been included in those of the Protectorate.

114. The population of the various districts of the Protectorate are estimated as under and may, I think, be regarded as fairly accurate :—

North Bank District (including the Ceded Mile)	55,000
South Bank District	19,000
McCarthy Island District (including the Island)	16,000
Upper River District	47,000
Kommbo and Fogni District (including British Kommbo)	17,911
Giving a total of	154,911
Which, added to the return of the Island of St. Mary	8,807
Gives a total population for the Colony and Protectorate of	163,718

115. The area of the Colony and Protectorate is estimated to be as follows :—

	Square miles.
Island of St. Mary	4
North Bank District (including Ceded Mile)	800
South Bank District	625
McCarthy Island District (including the Island)	300
Upper River District	260
Kommbo and Fogni District (including British Kommbo)	1,072
Making a total area of	3,061

This gives an estimated population of 53·4 to the square mile.

116. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 297. This gives a birth-rate of 33·7 per 1,000.

117. The deaths registered were 371, or 42·1 per 1,000.

118. It is not at present possible to obtain reliable returns from the Protectorate in regard to births and deaths.

119. The number of marriages registered in Bathurst was 23.

(B.) Public Health.

120. The general health of the Colony during the year was good.

121. Although Bathurst was free from any epidemic disease, the death-rate of the town was higher than in the previous year. This, however, may be attributed to the increased number of cases of pneumonia and dysentery due to the exposure and discomfort the poorer classes of the community suffered in the month of August, when, owing to the exceptional heavy rainfall, the lower portions of the town were under water for several days, and the people were unable to light fires for the purpose of cooking their food or drying their clothes.

122. The health of the natives in the Protectorate was good. In the South Bank only are outbreaks of small-pox to be recorded. In this district, since the time when Dr. Hopkinson was stationed at Quinella in 1901 with the West African Frontier Force, the people have begun to realise the advantages of vaccination, and the Commissioner, who has taken the matter up energetically and successfully, has now no dearth of applicants.

(C.) Sanitation.

123. The town of Bathurst was kept in a good sanitary condition during the year. The width and cleanliness of its streets, especially in the native portion, compare favourably with other West African towns. The work of scavenging was carried out, under the Board of Health, by an inspector of nuisances and several gangs of labourers, who made a daily collection of all refuse and rubbish, which was taken to the outskirts of the town and burnt.

124. A special gang of labourers was employed in connection with the crusade which was carried on against mosquitoes. All likely haunts, such as grass drains and stagnant pools, received special attention, and gardens and yards were inspected twice a week, when water tubs, barrels and other receptacles were carefully examined, with the result that comparatively few anopheles were to be found; the writer must, however, confess that he has never known the ordinary mosquitoes so numerous or so annoying as they were during the year.

125. The sanitary state of the towns in the Protectorate has been greatly improved within the past few years. The narrow tortuous alleys formerly to be met with are gradually disappearing, and wide straight streets are taking their place, and both compounds and streets are regularly swept and the rubbish burnt. The surface of the soil near the wells has been so built up as to prevent any polluted water finding its way into the wells, and other sanitary arrangements have been improved.

(D.) Climate.

126. There is no doubt that the climate of the Gambia, for at any rate six months of the year, is less unpleasant than that of other parts of the West African coast. Much cannot be said in favour of the remaining portion of the year. For seven months, viz., from November to May inclusive, practically no rain falls. During this period the weather is often pleasantly cool, the thermometer sometimes registering as low as 56 degrees early in the morning. The variations during the day however, which range as much as 40 degrees, cause it to be particularly trying at times. In the Protectorate much lower registers than the above have been recorded. July to October is regarded as the unhealthy season. All business is then more or less at a standstill and as many Europeans as possible, both official and mercantile, leave the Colony for a change, to Europe.

127. The rainfall for the year—June to October—was 57·13 inches. This is about 7 inches above the average. Of the total rainfall, the month of August was responsible for 35·87 inches, of which 16 inches fell on the 16th and 17th of the month. With

one exception, when it was a trifle over 36 inches, this is the highest recorded rainfall of any one month for the past 20 years.

128. The following is the meteorological return for the year :—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	
January...	160	93	56	37	71·9	—	
February	160	100	60	40	75·3	—	
March ...	164	100	61	39	76·5	—	
April ...	160	93	64	29	75·2	—	
May ...	165	88	67	21	75·4	—	
June ...	160	89	69	20	79·2	5·91	
July ...	165	89	68	21	79·0	7·13	
August ...	159	89	70	19	79·3	35·87	Total Rainfall.
September	160	89	67	22	79·4	4·15	
October...	162	91	67	24	79·7	4·07	57·13 in.
November	165	92	63	29	79·0	—	
December	157	89	57	32	73·1	—	

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

129. There is a fortnightly service of mail steamers belonging to the British and African Steam Navigation Company and the African Steamship Company, between Bathurst and Liverpool Mails are sent by these vessels to other places on the leeward coast. The monthly cargo steamers of the above companies from London also call at this port when inducements offer. During the year 73 steamers belonging to these firms entered at this port and the same number cleared.

130. The steamers of the above companies are exempted by law from the payment of port dues. Taking the average amount of port dues payable by each ship at £8, it will be seen that these companies were relieved from the payment of dues to the amount of £1,168 during the year.

131. In connection with this service the following extract is taken from the Blue Book report of 1898 : "The mail steamers get privileges and facilities everywhere, and, although not subsidized, an improvement in speed, comfort, and punctuality are much wanted." Writing five years later it can be said, so far as the Gambia is concerned, that much still remains to be done in this direction.

Post Office.

132. The revenue of the Post Office for the year was £553 as compared with £1,453 in 1902. This decrease is attributable to the issue of a new set of stamps in 1902, when large orders were received from stamp dealers and others.

133. The expenditure of the department for the same period was £620 as compared with £530 in 1902.

134. The value of the money orders issued during the year was £2,410 as compared with £3,254 in 1902, while the value of the orders paid was £160 as compared with £816 in the previous year. The falling off in money order transactions is due to the establishment of a branch of the Bank of British West Africa, through which the numerous kola-nut dealers trading between Sierra Leone and Gambia prefer to transact their business.

135. The total number of letters, post cards, and printed matter dealt with during the year was 94,365 as compared with 78,726 in 1902, an increase of 15,639, The number of parcels dealt with was 1,532 as compared with 1,340 in the previous year.

136. For many years past the department has carried on its work under trying conditions, owing to the want of proper accommodation. During the year it was removed to a larger building, where it has been possible to effect many improvements to the advantage of the public as well as to the department.

Telegraphs.

137. No inland telegraph exists in the Colony, which is, however, in direct communication with Europe, viâ St. Vincent (Cape Verde), and also with the other West African Colonies.

Telephones.

138. During the year the telephone system. by which Government House, the Colonial Secretary's office, and the Treasury were in communication, was extended, and an exchange established. All the principal offices are connected with it.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

139. The only military force in the Colony is a company of the West African Frontier Force which was raised at the end of 1901. Three officers and two British non-commissioned officers are attached to it. The native non-commissioned officers and men are enlisted partly from Sierra Leone and partly from the tribes in and around the Gambia. The company was encamped at Salikeni in the North Bank district from January to July. It is pleasing to be able to record that during the whole of this period no complaint was received from the townspeople as to the behaviour of the men towards them. When in Bathurst about sixty of the men are in barracks, the remainder being allowed to live in the town with their families.

140. An officers' mess was started during the year, to which a grant of £100 was made. A grant for a similar purpose has been sanctioned to the European non-commissioned officers.

141. A drum and fife band has been established, and is being trained by a European bandmaster, who arrived in the Colony in March. Considering the material he has had to work with, he deserves great credit for the progress the band has made. I am glad to be able to state that 61 men of the force have been induced to open accounts in the savings bank.

142. The expenditure on account of the company during the year was £5,867.

143. The police force, which is of a semi-military character, has already been referred to in paragraphs 98–101.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

144. During the year the question of irrigating the districts on either bank of the river was considered. Mr. Henry Parker, of the Irrigation Department of the Government of Ceylon, was selected to enquire into, and report, on the matter. In an exhaustive report he submitted the following schemes, by either of which the desired irrigation might be accomplished :—

(1.) By means of dams in streams to hold up the water after the flood had passed.

(2.) To store the surplus water of the rainy season in the valleys in reservoirs.

(3.) To establish a system of small village reservoirs ; or

(4.) To raise water from the river by means of powerful pumps.

After careful consideration the Government has been unable to adopt any of these proposals, owing to the heavy outlay which would be involved and the small resulting benefit.

145. The question of deepening the Kai Hai channel of the Gambia River was also under consideration. This channel, which

is only about 120 yards wide, is situated 140 miles from Bathurst and 8 miles below McCarthy Island. It is asserted that formerly vessels drawing 15 feet to 16 feet of water could pass through it at high water. In recent years, however, owing to its shoaling, it has not been navigable for vessels of more than 12 feet draught at high water. It was at first thought that this shoal could be removed for a comparatively small sum, but subsequent estimates showed that a very large expenditure would be required to effect the necessary improvements. Under these circumstances the matter was referred to Messrs. Coode, Son, and Matthews for an expert opinion. At their suggestion one of their engineers visited the Colony, and pending the issue of his report the question of proceeding with the work is in abeyance.

146. Various important public works were undertaken during the year. Among them may be mentioned the extensive repairs to the block of buildings occupied by the two European non-commissioned officers and the men at the barracks, the erection of two sets of bungalows for quarters, and the extensive alterations to the Colonial Hospital, and to the building converted into the new Post Office.

147. Owing to the additional estimated cost of completing the filling up of the Half Die swamp, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining proper labour and the necessary material having to be brought from a greater distance than was anticipated, this work was not continued during the year. This question, with which the scheme for the drainage of the town is closely connected, also received the attention of the engineer sent out by Messrs. Coode, Son, and Matthews, and it is hoped that his report may be received at an early date.

148. It is with regret that I have to record a shipping accident of a serious nature which took place during the year. A small steam launch was proceeding down the river at night when it met with an ocean steamer going in the opposite direction. The pilot of the small vessel seems to have lost his presence of mind at a critical moment, with the result that the launch was run down and 15 people were drowned, among them being Mr. A. D. Temple, an unofficial member of the Legislative Council.

149. In view of the large number of cattle in the Colony—estimated at 53,147 head—efforts were made to establish an export trade with other West African Colonies. Several shipments of beasts, averaging 600 to 700 each, were successfully and profitably made to the Gold Coast; but unfortunately some of the last shipment on arrival there were said to be suffering from trypanosomiasis. As there was no case of it in the Gambia either then or since, it is quite evident that this disease must have been contracted *en route*. No further shipment has since been made; but it is hoped that, with the fine cattle to be obtained in the Gambia, it may yet be possible to establish an export trade.

150. Following up a suggestion contained in a former report that there was a possible demand for West Indian products on the West Coast of Africa, the Government of Barbados sent to this Colony at the close of 1902 samples of sugar, molasses and rum. These were inspected by the various leading merchants, who were, however, unanimously of opinion that there was very little demand for such articles here.

151. The adoption of the metric system of weights and measures was also under consideration during the year. The merchants were in favour of this being done, as, owing to the number of invoices received which are based on it, it would simplify business, and would also be readily accepted by the natives coming from French into English territory for trade purposes.

152. The year 1903 brings the first 10 years of the history of the Protectorate to a close. It would be almost impossible for anyone visiting it to-day to realise the condition of affairs that existed in 1893, in which year the first two Travelling Commissioners, Mr. J. H. Ozanne and Mr. F. C. Sitwell, were appointed the first to the North Bank district and the latter to the South Bank district. Practically nothing was then known of the Protectorate, and consequently the instructions given to these officers were somewhat vague. Their orders were to visit all towns, to get acquainted with the principal chiefs, &c., and to report their experiences at head quarters. No reliable maps of the country were to be obtained, with the result that many villages claimed by the French were found to be almost within a stone's throw of the river, while those said to be English were situated 12 to 15 miles inland. Each chief was a law unto himself and did pretty well what he liked in his own district. Slave owners with their wretched property were to be seen passing from town to town, farmers dared not venture to their farms without taking their bundouks or long dane guns with them, and women going to their rice farms were liable to be kidnapped. Fogni, generally known as the "Jola country," was brought under the Protectorate system a year later. Here it was not deemed advisable for the Commissioner to travel unless accompanied by a small escort, and reports frequently reached head quarters of the robbery and murder of traders passing through the district. To-day a very different state of affairs exists, the Commissioner being able to march through his district with no more formidable weapon than a walking stick, his only possible enemies being the bees which abound there. Throughout the Protectorate native courts, presided over by the chiefs, assisted by the principal headmen, have been established in the districts, and are conducted in an orderly and impartial manner. A yard tax law, in which there is no penal clause, has been enforced and is readily complied with. The sanitary conditions of the towns have been well looked after, streets have been opened up, and the main roads, which were nothing more than mere bush paths, are now of a

uniform width of 18 feet, their total mileage being estimated at 1,121 miles. Numerous streams, swamps, and creeks which formerly had to be waded through, are now crossed by well built native bridges varying in length from 150 to 600 feet. Slavery is a thing of the past; men, women, and children alike can now work on their farms without fear of molestation, and considering the area of the Protectorate there is a marked absence of serious crime.

153. In the Upper River district the progress has been still more noticeable. Although visited for a few weeks by a Commissioner in 1900, it was not taken in hand for all practical purposes until the following year. A trip to this district was formerly regarded as a formidable undertaking; merchants who had been resident in the Colony 10 and 12 years had never visited it, and in one instance at least, a merchant who for 15 years had had a trader there had never seen him. At the present time a journey to the Upper River is a matter of almost every day occurrence. Well built houses occupied by Europeans now take the place of cane huts at the various landing places; in the trading season launches and lighters are to be seen busily moving from port to port, and an air of prosperity prevails. The districts of Sandu, Wuli, and Kantora were the first to be brought under the Protectorate system. No steps were taken in regard to Fulladu, as the opinion had been expressed that nothing could be done there until after the death of its chief, Moussa Molloh, whose capital was in French territory. In spite of this forecast, however, it was found possible to enter into negotiations with Moussa, and in June, 1901, an agreement was made by which that portion of his land within the British sphere of influence was also brought under the Protectorate, the Government in return granting him a subsidy of £500 annually. It may here be added that during the year under review, this chief, owing to some disagreement with his French protectors, came with a large following into English ground and has settled down quietly on the land assigned to him.

154. The credit of the rapid progress of the Protectorate may be fairly said to be due to Sir R. Llewelyn, who inaugurated the system, to his successor Sir George Denton, especially as regards the Upper River, and to the Commissioners, amongst whom the names of Mr. Ozanne and Mr. Sitwell must receive first mention. The former, after nine years' service, died of blackwater fever, and the latter was killed two years previously while attempting to arrest a native who had disputed the authority of his chief.

155. Since the establishment of the Protectorate there have been twelve Travelling Commissioners appointed to it. Three of these have died while on duty, two have been killed in the performance of their duties, one has been invalided, and another has resigned.

156. The question is often asked as to the nature of the sport in the Gambia, to which it can be replied that a fair amount of

shooting may be obtained, but the sportsman in search of big game is likely to be disappointed. There are several kinds of deer, bush cow, and wild boar; lions are occasionally met with, and there are a few leopards. Hippopotami are found in the upper reaches of the river, and crocodiles abound. As regards smaller game, fair bags can be made of bush fowl, bustards, guinea fowls, quail, pigeon, and sand grouse. There are many so-called hunters; but as anyone shooting the smallest deer either by accident or otherwise is looked upon as such, this is not surprising: really good hunters are scarce. At present there are no regulations in respect to the shooting of game; but, as a rule, permission would have to be obtained from the authorities before a shooting party would be allowed to go into the Protectorate. All firearms have to pay a duty of £1 on first importation, and no drawback is allowed when they are taken out of the Colony. The best time for sport is between the months of February and May. The cost of a shooting trip, inclusive of all expenses, may be calculated at about £25 to £30 a month; if the party were composed of two or more the average monthly cost would be about £20 to £25 each. As there are no hotels in Bathurst, it is very desirable that anyone coming to the Colony in search of sport should bring letters of introduction to one of the residents.

157. Mr. F. Bisset Archer, Assistant Colonial Secretary at Lagos, was appointed Treasurer, and arrived in the Colony early in the year.

158. The deaths of Mr. Henry Kelly, Master of Government vessels, and Mr. J. Dougan, a pensioner, have to be recorded with regret.

159. During the year Rear Admiral Sir Arthur Moore, Commander-in-Chief of the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa Station, paid the Colony a visit of several days. This portion of the coast of Africa has since been attached to the South Atlantic Squadron command. The Colony also received an official visit from Monsieur Guy, the Lieutenant-Governor of the neighbouring French Colony of Senegal.

160. In conclusion, it may be said that the condition of the Colony for the year 1903 was one of healthy prosperity.

H. M. Brandford Griffith,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Bathurst, 11th June, 1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
402	Cocos Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1903
405	Southern Nigeria	1902
406	Straits Settlements	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
408	Basutoland	"
409	Northern Nigeria	1902
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St. Lucia	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
414	Jamaica	"
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1985]) ...	1902
415	Falkland Islands	1903
416	Leeward Islands	1902–1903
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda	"
419	Weihaiwei	"
420	St. Helena	"
421	Hong Kong	"
422	Gibraltar	"
423	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 452.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 424.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1905.

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No. 452.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 424.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The total amount brought to account as General Revenue of the Government during the year under report, was £54,180. Although this amount is some £1,400 less than that collected during 1903, it is well above the average revenue of the Colony, the receipts during the preceding year being the largest ever collected in the Gambia.

2. The following table shows the revenue collected from all sources during 1903 and 1904, as also the several increases and decreases:—

Heads of Revenue.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs..	41,628 12 7	39,933 14 2	—	1,694 18 5
Port Dues	1,014 0 0	1,080 0 0	66 0 0	—
Licenses, Excise, &c.	1,108 0 0	1,210 1 8	102 1 8	—
Fees of Court or Office	740 6 9	1,020 1 1	279 14 4	—
Post Office	553 3 3	596 7 9	43 4 6	—
Rents of Government Property ..	382 9 0	364 2 9	—	18 6 3
Government Vessels	433 18 6	533 17 9	99 19 3	—
Interest	1,793 11 4	1,673 0 11	—	120 10 5
Protectorate	6,349 2 4	6,172 19 10	—	176 2 6
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,540 17 2	1,583 13 9	42 16 7	—
Land Sales	20 0 0	12 0 0	—	8 0 0
	£55,564 0 11	54,179 19 8	633 16 4	2,017 17 7

3. The increases as shown are small, but point to the fact that the general local items of revenue outside Customs receipts are gradually improving. The deficit on Customs duties is owing to the decreased importation of wines, probably due to the increased rate of duty from 3*s.* to 4*s.* the gallon; the falling off in spirits, oils, tobacco, and sugar is due to the large stock of these items in the Colony at the end of 1903. A less quantity of trade guns and gunpowder came into the country during the year, and this is accounted for by the peace and tranquillity existing in the Colony and Protectorate at the present time.

4. The amount of revenue received under Customs was, Import Duty, £25,454 14*s.* 8*d.*, and Export Duty, £14,478 19*s.* 6*d.* In addition to these figures, £1,048 3*s.* 9*d.*

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was collected from warehouse rent, buoyage, and wharfage dues, making a total of £40,981 17*s.* 11*d.*, as the following table will show:—

Comparative Statement of Customs Revenue 1903 *and* 1904.

Heads of Receipt.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Five per cent. *ad valorem*	5,317 10 9	5,370 11 7	53 0 10	—
Import Duty, Specific—				
Wine	921 9 1	811 17 8	—	109 11 5
Spirits..	4,339 19 8	4,113 6 0	—	226 13 8
Malt liquor	207 11 0	235 9 3	27 18 3	—
Oils, cooking and edible	840 7 1	635 7 11	—	204 19 2
Oil paint and turps	26 14 2	29 8 3	2 14 1	—
Kerosene and other burning oils ..	192 1 9	204 12 7	12 10 10	—
Tobacco	3 335 8 6	3,049 10 6	—	285 18 0
Sugar	2,586 11 4	2,251 2 0	—	335 9 4
Kola nuts	6,746 11 4	6,808 15 10	62 4 6	—
Rice	1,[illegible] 16 8	1,343 7 8	83 11 0	—
Guns and Pistols	264 4 0	120 0 0	—	144 4 1
Gunpowder	117 5 6	55 4 2	—	62 1 4
Salt	309 13 4	419 13 11	110 0 7	—
Coffee (raw)..	5 4 3	6 7 4	1 3 1	—
Total imports	26,470 8 5	25,454 14 8	353 3 2	1,368 16 11
Ground nuts (Export Duty)	15,158 4 2	14,478 19 6	—	679 4 8
Warehouse rent	108 18 6	118 3 9	9 5 3	—
Buoyage	706 10 0	627 10 0	—	79 0 0
Wharfage	307 10 0	302 10 0	—	5 0 0
Totals	42,751 11 1	40,981 17 11	362 8 5	2,132 1 7

5. The expenditure for the year amounted to £52,300 12*s.* 9*d.*, being a decrease of £15,203 12*s.* 8*d.* on that of the previous year, the particulars of which, together with the increased and decreased expenditure under certain heads, will be seen in the following return, comparing the items of expenditure for the year 1903 with that now under report:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions..	748 18 10	1,002 14 9	253 15 11	—
The Governor..	2,895 14 9	3,466 4 10	570 10 1	—
The Colonial Secretary	1,167 5 5	1,191 6 6	24 1 1	—
The Protectorate	5,779 3 8	5,149 10 10	—	629 12 10
Printing Department	621 10 7	372 8 1	—	249 2 6
Treasury	1,010 16 2	1,109 6 4	98 10 2	—
Customs Department	1,927 1 3	2,066 12 0	139 10 9	—
Post Office	620 5 10	671 0 9	50 4 11	—
Audit Department	504 12 9	577 0 11	72 8 2	—
Judicial Department	1,224 18 9	1,252 12 6	27 3 9	—
Attorney General	512 6 9	499 1 7	—	13 5 2
Education	848 18 6	1,123 0 11	274 2 5	—
Frontier Force	5,744 9 0	5,388 3 7	—	356 5 5
Police	4,323 13 2	4,105 18 2	—	217 15 0
Prisons	706 7 1	726 6 0	19 18 11	—
Medical Department	2,200 18 0	2,851 2 11	650 4 11	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	818 0 11	917 15 10	99 14 11	—
Government Vessels	2,272 3 1	2,355 4 1	83 1 0	—
Charitable Allowances	90 19 0	101 9 4	10 10 4	—
Transport	897 8 9	272 9 4	—	624 19 5
Miscellaneous Services	2,501 3 2	2,388 6 0	—	112 17 2
Drawbacks, &c.	32 15 7	309 14 6	276 18 11	—
Agriculture	586 15 8	738 16 10	152 1 2	—
Colonial Engineering Department ..	1,531 17 11	1,651 5 6	119 7 7	—
Public Works Recurrent	5,223 10 6	4,790 3 2	—	433 7 4
Public Works Extraordinary	11,710 2 5	4,858 11 1	—	6,851 11 4
Special Services	11,002 7 11	2,364 6 5	—	8,638 1 6
Total	67,504 5 5	52,300 12 9	2,923 5 0	18,126 17 8

6. The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Pensions.—Due to arrears of 1903 paid in 1904, and three additional pensioners, namely, the Manager of Kommbo, the Chief Warder of Prisons, and the Beadle of the Court of Requests.

Governor.—To the passage of the Bandmaster not provided for under this Department, and increased travelling during the year by the Governor.

Treasury.—Due to re-arrangement of staff and one additional clerk.

Customs.—By various increments to salaries, fees to Measuring Surveyor of Shipping, and passages of Collector of Customs, not provided for.

Education.—Increased earnings by the various schools in accordance with existing regulations.

Medical.—By increments to Medical Officers and the transfer to this head from the Protectorate Department of the salary of one Medical Officer.

Agriculture.—Due to the appointment of a cotton expert, which office had been vacant during a portion of 1903.

Colonial Engineer.—Certain arrears during 1903 adjusted in 1904.

7. The decreases are accounted for as follows:—

Protectorate.—To less allowances and presents during the year to the interior Chiefs, &c.

Printing.—In 1903, additional printing presses and type were obtained.

West African Frontier Force.—In 1903, special furniture for the officers' quarters and mess was obtained. During 1904 it was found possible to reduce the quantity of clothing for the force, a supply being on hand from the previous year.

Police.—In 1903 a fire engine and appliances were obtained.

Transport.—Less travelling by officials during the year.

Miscellaneous.—Less quantity of stationery purchased.

Public Works Recurrent.—Decreased expenditure on public buildings.

Public Works Extraordinary.—Works at Half Die, Kai Hai Channel, Government House, and the Albert Market not completed at the end of the year. For the time being, the swamp filling and drainage at Half Die have been indefinitely postponed.

Special Services.—By payment during 1903 to the War Office on account of the Gambia Expedition of 1902.

8. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	49,081	29,818
1901	43,726	48,518
1902	51,016	51,536
1903	55,564	67,504
1904	54,180	52,301

(B.) Taxation.

9. During the year legislation with regard to taxation has practically been nil. For the more efficient working of that portion of the Colony known as British Kommbo, it was, however, decided to apply the Protectorate Ordinance No. 7 of 1902 to it, embodying this land as a portion of the Protectorate, thereby doing away with the rentage of farm lands, which by Ordinance No. 2 of 1897 was 2*s*. for every acre or part of an acre throughout Kommbo. Against this, in accordance with the Protectorate Regulations, the Yard Tax Ordinance of 1895 was applied by Proclamation, dated the 7th April.

10. The only other form of taxation in 1904 was by the Regulations of the 22nd July, under Section 9 of the Navigation and Pilotage Ordinance No. 1 of this year, for the licensing of inland water crafts, the use of the Government Wharf, the licensing of pilots, and the engagement of sailors.

Under the regulations, the following fees became payable annually:—

For vessels under 10 tons gross register ...	5*s*.
Over 10 tons and not exceeding 20 tons ...	10*s*.
„ 20 „ „ „ 30 „ ...	20*s*.
„ 30 „ and upwards	30*s*.

For vessels of any description lying alongside the wharf for any day or part of a day ending at 6 p.m., the following fees became payable:—

Over 1,000 tons gross register, for the first day ...	£10
„ „ „ „ „ for each subsequent day	£5
„ 500 „ and not exceeding 1,000 tons. Half of the above rates.	
„ 150 „ and not exceeding 500 tons. Quarter of the above rates.	
„ 50 „ and not exceeding 150 tons. One-eighth of the above rates.	

Under 50 tons, 10*s*. per diem.

The fee payable by a pilot for his licence is 10*s.* per annum.

The rates payable to pilots for pilotage services above the Port of Bathurst are as under:—

—	For piloting Vessels from Bathurst to		
	Ballangar.	Kuntaour.	McCarthy Island or above.
	£	£	£
Steamers over 500 tons	4	6	8
Vessels below	2	3	4

These rates include the return voyage.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

11. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1904, was £49,427, or some £1,800 more than on the same date of the preceding year.

The assets are invested in Colonial Government Securities, which for reference are shown in the following return:—

Assets.—Surplus Funds Invested.—General.

—	Amount of Stock.			Cost Price.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
New Zealand Inscribed Stock... ...	5,003	18	9	5,000	0	0
Jamaica „	3,015	0	6	3,000	0	0
British Guiana „	2,056	10	0	2,000	0	0
West Australia „	6,254	4	0	5,992	9	0
Trinidad „	5,032	19	9	4,800	5	8
Natal „	4,428	9	9	4,500	0	0
Queensland „	4,376	7	2	4,584	10	0
South Australia „	7,242	8	3	7,007	11	0
Cape of Good Hope „	3,567	4	0	3,500	0	0
Victoria „	4,665	5	3	4,415	10	0
Gold Coast „	3,000	0	0	2,688	6	11
Reading Corporation „	4,000	0	0	3,807	14	7
Steamer Depreciation Fund—						
Grenada Inscribed Stock	211	7	6	250	0	0
West Australia Inscribed Stock ...	1,200	0	0	1,134	2	2
Trinidad „ ...	287	19	9	285	5	7
South Australia „ ...	400	0	0	369	18	0
Transvaal „ ...	1,000	0	0	991	18	6
Total	55,741	14	8	54,327	11	5

12. The Colony at the end of the year was indebted to the Crown Agents to the extent of £4,400 odd.

(D.) Public Debt.

13. The Colony has no Public Debt.

(E.) Currency.

14. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated, from returns received from the Manager of the Bank of British West Africa, at £104,125, made up as follows:—

	£
Bank of England notes	350
British gold	3,750
British silver	25,000
French gold	25
French five-franc pieces (locally known as dollars)	75,000
	£104,125

15. During the year specie to the value of £108,719 was imported, and £61,994 exported. The total being as under:—

Description of Coin.	Imported.	Exported.
	£	£
British gold ...	7,750	4,000
„ silver ...	30,752	18 968
„ bronze.	46	—
French gold ...	—	—
„ silver ...	70,171	39,026
Total ...	108,719	61,994

16. The decrease in the importation of specie is due to the facilities given by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, in issuing cheques and drafts.

The increased exportation, £18,717 over that during 1903, is due to a less quantity of ground-nuts purchased by the merchants, and the consequent exportation of French dollars, the usual currency for this purpose.

(F.) Municipalities, Local Boards, &c.

17. The only Board of this nature in the Colony is the Board of Health, which is responsible for the sanitary condition of the town of Bathurst, and has done excellent work. Professor Boyce and two assistants from the Liverpool School of Tropical

Medicine, visited the Colony at the end of the year, and commented very favourably on the cleanliness of the town.

18. The Board consists of the Senior Medical Officer, who is Chairman, the Colonial Engineer, the Superintendent of Police, one of the Government Medical Officers, and two leading members of the community. Its revenue is derived from (1) a rate of 3 per cent. levied on the annual value of house property; (2) slaughter-house fees; and (3) a grant-in-aid from the Government. During the year a committee was specially appointed to re-assess the house property in the town, and the Board's revenue will during 1905 be materially increased. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure during the year:—

Board of Health.

——	Amount.	Total.
Receipts.	£ s. d.	£ s. d
Balance from last year...	—	112 14 9
Local Rates	581 0 6	
Slaughter-house Fees, &c.	102 11 2	
Grant-in-Aid	500 0 0	
		1,183 11 8
		1,296 6 5
Expenditure.		
Salaries	102 0 0	
Cleaning drains	457 6 9	
Sanitation and miscellaneous services	743 0 2	
		1,302 6 11
Balance Dr. £	—	6 0 6

19. The following figures show the revenue and expenditure of the Board of Health for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	938	938
1901	870	870
1902	1,645	1,304
1903	1,375	1,262
1904	1,184	1,303

20. The Government grant to the Board during the year under report was £500.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—Imports.

21. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £306,149, being a decrease of £34,914 on the imports of 1903. As a comparison, the returns for the preceding five years are given:—

Articles.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	83,251	67,552	115,376	126,273	108,719
Other articles ...	194,408	185,095	188,239	214,790	197,430
Total ...	277,659	252,647	303,615	341,063	306,149

22 The decrease is accounted for principally by a falling off of £17,554 in specie, of £11,784 in cotton goods, of £882 in tobacco, of £602 in wine, of £273 in spirits, and of £248 in gunpowder. In 1903 the ground-nut crop was unusually good, and this accounts for the large importations that year, the highest ever recorded in the history of the Gambia.

23. With regard, however, to the short importation of cotton goods, it must be recorded that while the value from Great Britain was £12,075 less than in 1903, France and Germany showed an increase of £937 and £191 respectively; in the case of the former country the figures have doubled themselves during the past three years, the value of cotton goods from France in 1901 being £3,166, whilst in 1904 it had increased to £6,974.

24. Rice and sugar are other commodities that are imported in larger quantities from France than from the mother country, and the reason for this is that the freight is much less (in some instances 55 per cent.) from Marseilles than from either Liverpool or Hamburg.

25. The value of the imports may be classified as under:—

Specific commercial imports	£80,473
Ad valorem	106,807
Free	114,973
	302,253
Free Government imports	3,896
	£306,149

26. The following return gives the principal articles of import for the years 1901 to 1904:—

Return of Principal Articles of Imports, 1901–1904.

Articles and Countries.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Cotton goods—	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	1,762	2,745	2,448	2,335	40,697	60,720	57,183	45,108
France	171	284	274	417	3,166	4,793	6,036	6,973
Germany	12	8	17	41	203	134	381	573
French Colonies ..	24	27	82	21	32	245	1,032	72
Portuguese Colonies ..	10	—	12	42	62	—	122	282
Sierra Leone	55	49	56	39	102	160	116	78
Total	2,034	3,113	2,889	2,895	44,262	66,052	64,870	53,086
Tobacco—	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Great Britain	14,380	1,356	82,060	138,648	646	238	2,270	2,993
France	332	13,835	23,162	59,529	64	355	574	1,323
Germany	197	3,626	308	30,546	30	109	36	680
America	239,953	228,731	141,566	—	5,694	5,382	3,269	—
French Colonies ..	—	159	11,612	15,282	—	25	300	581
Portuguese Colonies ..	420	70	304	309	69	18	50	35
Sierra Leone	3	18	14	19	2	10	2	7
Total	255,285	247,795	259,027	244,333	6,505	6,137	6,501	5,619
Kola Nuts—								
Sierra Leone	843,822	915,954	759,270	817,093	21,008	28,577	32,820	35,034
Total	843,822	915,954	759,270	817,093	21,008	28,577	32,820	35,034
Spirits—	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.				
Great Britain	8,487	9,982	10,722	6,001	1,574	1,645	1,565	1,108
France	4,082	2,207	1,939	1,389	816	627	592	533
Germany	22,392	15,356	14,400	12,562	2,138	2,203	1,981	2,122
Holland	—	—	—	585	—	—	—	99
Portuguese Colonies ..	4	22	6	9	2	6	2	3
Sierra Leone	2	—	—	5	1	—	—	2
Total	34,967	27,567	27,067	20,551	4,531	4,481	4,140	3,867
Wine—								
Great Britain	5,507	3,499	2,241	2,569	887	534	692	490
France	11,756	14,989	11,476	10,289	1,319	1,437	1,381	1,030
Germany	54	45	133	41	14	34	48	11
French Colonies ..	251	56	2,648	2,154	60	5	221	216
Portuguese Colonies ..	121	50	108	59	34	6	30	22
Sierra Leone	-	19	—	5	--	5	—	1
Total	17,689	18,658	16,606	15,117	2,314	2,021	2,372	1,770
Sugar—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.				
Great Britain	458	598	1,254	723	464	578	1,229	826
France	2,835	3,614	3,880	3,954	2,423	2,834	3,033	3,724
Germany	20	321	263	124	16	279	220	92
French Colonies ..	—	—	222	21	—	—	185	21
Total	3,313	4,533	5,619	4,822	2,903	3,691	4,667	4,663
Gunpowder—	Brls.	Brls.	Brls.	Brls.				
Great Britain	—	175	190	133	—	236	347	258
France	119	—	92	—	184	—	159	—
Germany	100	—	—	—	176	—	—	—
Total	219	175	282	133	360	236	506	258
Salt—	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons				
France	25	—	2	—	162	—	5	—
Portuguese Colonies ..	1,793	1,648	1,238	1,678	1,367	1,158	1,036	1,215
Total	1,818	1,648	1,240	1,678	1,529	1,158	1,041	1,215

Return of Principal Articles of Imports, 1901-1904—*continued.*

Articles and Countries.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Rice—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	23,271	11,331	15,250	16,089	10,888	4,971	7,094	6,815
France	51,525	24,234	17,095	26,852	22,180	9,116	7,827	11,096
Germany	11,830	5,907	17,491	10,841	5,302	1,687	7,541	4,694
French Colonies ..	14	6	3	14	5	3	1	8
Portuguese Colonies ..	—	—	—	215	—	—	—	86
Sierra Leone	346	132	156	172	164	70	76	88
Total	86,986	39,610	49,995	54,183	38,539	15,847	22,539	22,787

27. The following return shows the total value of imports exclusive of specie for the past six years, and the countries from which the imports came, together with their averages:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	88,782	35,256	28,202	979	18,353	171,572
1900 ...	102,121	41,103	35,934	3,009	12,241	194,408
1901 ...	91,289	23,196	46,620	832	23,158	185,095
1902 ...	103,706	30,241	33,932	1,892	18,418	188,189
1903 ...	105,629	34,658	37,906	6,338	30,259	214,790
1904 ...	88,529	36,824	48,443	4,603	19,031	197,430
Total	580,056	201,278	231,037	17,653	121,460	1,151,484
Average	96,676	33,546	35,181	2,942	20,243	191,922

(B.) Exports.

28. The total value of exports for the year amounted to £311,283, as compared with £334,017 during 1903—a decrease of £22,734. In 1903 the value of the specie exported was £43,277, in 1904, £61,994.

29. The total value exclusive of specie for 1904 was £249,289, a decrease of £41,451.

30. The main decrease is accounted for by a falling off in the ground-nut seed of no less than 2,041 tons, and of a value of £46,107. Fluctuations in this crop from year to year are bound to be experienced as so much depends on the rainfall and the price of the nuts in France, to which country the majority of them are exported.

31. The following table shows the destination of the crop for the year under report:—

Country.	Tonnage.	Value.
		£
Great Britain ...	626	4,564
France	34,667	182,510
Germany ...	1,083	5,413
Denmark ...	2,445	12,226
Holland... ...	4,550	24,216
Other countries	65	337
Total ...	43,436	229,286

32. There was an increased export of rubber during the year of 11,383 lbs., but this was due to a quantity of Casamance rubber being brought to Bathurst for direct export to Great Britain, the actual quantity of Gambia rubber collected being less than in the preceding year.

33. Wax, palm kernels, and hides show an increase, but beyond pointing out that the trade in hides is gradually developing, no comment is necessary.

Raw cotton also shows an increase of 58,817 lbs. This is due to the high price that was paid for seed cotton in the Protectorate as an inducement to the people to cultivate it more largely. The trade, as far as the Gambia is concerned, is, however, a failure, and I may mention that the greater quantity of what was exported in 1904 was grown in French territory, and was brought into the Gambia Protectorate to be sold because of the better price obtainable for it there.

34. It is feared that the cultivation of cotton in this Colony is impossible, the soil being too sandy. The endeavour on the part of the Government and the British Cotton Growing Association to foster the trade has resulted in a substantial loss. A great quantity of seed was distributed gratis during the past planting season, but the reports received are most unsatisfactory, the crop being a total failure. The fact is, that the people will take little or no interest in the cultivation, and such cotton as they do grow they prefer to keep for their own consumption for the making of "pagns" (native cloths), rather than to sell it at a price at which it would pay to export the product. Ground-nuts pay better, give less trouble to cultivate, and provide sufficient for the "off season's keep."

35. The following return shows the principal articles of export for the years 1901 to 1904, and the countries to which shipment was made:—

Return of Principal Articles of Exports, 1901–1904.

Articles and Countries.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Ground Nuts—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	358	308	613	626	3,190	2,885	5,013	4,564
France	22,116	25,492	41,701	34,667	148,433	152,051	252,372	182,510
Germany	3,238	1,069	—	1,083	20,542	7,482	—	5,413
Holland	—	1,769	1,905	4,550	—	13,213	9,079	24,216
Denmark	—	2,175	1,250	2,445	—	13,051	8,000	12,226
Austria	—	801	—	—	—	4,803	—	—
French Colonies ..	40	—	—	29	240	—	—	162
Portuguese Colonies ..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	17
Liberia	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	13
Sierra Leone	—	—	8	31	—	—	30	166
Total	25,750	31,612	45,477	43,436	172,405	193,485	275,394	229,287
Rubber—	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Great Britain	146,573	53,253	13,904	27,663	8,963	3,558	1,030	2,129
France	—	1,166	5,647	1,874	—	80	514	180
French Colonies ..	—	10,864	—	1,397	—	600	—	137
Total	146,573	65,283	19,551	30,934	8,963	4,238	1,544	2,446
Wax—								
Great Britain	63,822	42,773	28,654	47,491	2,803	1,808	1,118	1,888
France	—	771	5,941	—	—	35	287	—
French Colonies ..	76	—	4,045	—	3	—	184	—
Total	63,898	43,544	38,640	47,491	2,806	1,843	1,589	1,888
Palm Kernels—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.				
Great Britain	140	137	109	179	882	945	793	1,132
France	13	—	—	—	89	—	—	—
Total	153	137	109	179	971	945	793	1,132
Cotton, Raw—	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.				
Great Britain	—	—	705	59,150	—	—	9	1,459
French Colonies ..	—	96	306	678	—	1	4	3
Total	—	96	1,011	59,828	—	1	13	1,462
Hides—	No.	No.	No.	No.				
Great Britain	2,148	2,019	2,147	4,221	475	480	449	754
France	—	—	1,914	1,890	—	—	499	513
French Colonies ..	—	160	247	858	—	32	66	177
Portuguese Colonies ..	—	36	—	—	—	8	—	—
Total	2,148	2,215	4,308	6,969	475	520	1,014	1,444

36. The value of the exports for the past five years was as under:—

Articles.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	41,271	39,212	37,790	45,277	61,994
Other articles ...	240,705	194,455	210,350	290,740	249,289
Total ...	281,976	233,667	288,140	334,017	311,283

37. The value of the total exports, exclusive of specie, for the past five years, and the countries to which they were exported, were as follows:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900 ...	14,326	1,740	193,779	3,008	27,851	240,704
1901 ...	17,936	2,090	148,723	4,950	20,755	194,454
1902 ...	11,393	1,469	152,278	5,794	39,416	210,350
1903 ...	9,405	2,546	254,114	6,650	18,025	290,740
1904 ...	13,003	2,948	183,804	7,550	41,984	249,289
Total...	66,063	10,793	932,698	27,952	148,031	1,185,537

38. Return showing value and quantity of the principal articles of export for the past 70 years and that under report:—

Articles.		1833.	1843.	1853.	1863.	1873.	1883.	1893.	1903.	1904.
Ground nuts (tons).	1	—	2,680	11,226	12,881	10,371	23,094	25,218	45,477	43,436
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ground nuts	2	—	32,899	135,404	103,048	98,000	170,164	172,765	275,394	229,287
Hides (number)	1	76,900	98,723	68,449	79,874	9,780	16,167	18,298	4,308	6,969
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
„	2	15,380	19,499	13,689	15,975	1,952	4,305	1,515	1,014	1,444
Ivory (lbs.) ..	1	29,240	12,841	9,994	7,219	508	692	701	1,071	1,041
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
„ ..	2	5,117	2,569	1,999	1,444	60	89	180	167	156
Wax (tons) ..	1	175	261	125	60	44	60	21	17	21
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
„ ..	2	15,210	37,744	17,719	9,022	5,227	4,628	2,143	1,589	1,888
Corn (bushels)	1	3,636	496	—	—	1,245	6,758	—	—	112
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
„	2	3,151	652	—	—	395	1,366	—	—	22
Camwood (tons)	1	74	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
„	2	1,043	1,088	—	—	—		—	—	—
Gum (tons) ..	1	275	90	6	4	—	—	—	—	1
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
„ ..	2	13,750	5,105	300	208	—	—	—	—	5
Palm kernels (tons)	1	—	—	—	—	—	142	343	109	179
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Palm kernels	2	—	—	—	—	—	1,223	1,723	793	1,132
Rubber (lbs.)	1	—	—	—	—	—	52 003	45,298	91,551	30,934
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
„	2	—	—	—	—	—	6,048	2,619	1,544	1,466
Cotton, Raw (lbs.)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59,828
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cotton, Raw	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,462
Total value of exports.	£	36,221	134,513	185,285	141,674	110,817	208,120	239 720	290,740	237,842

1, Quantity. 2, Value in pounds sterling.

(C.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

39. The history of the products of the Gambia having been so often dealt with, there is little or nothing to be added of interest. There are no mines in the colony and no apparent mineral wealth, although in the past, shipments of gold have been exported; but this metal came from no part of the British Possessions, but from the far interior beyond Tenda in French territory near the source of the Gambia River, and from the streams which form the River Niger.

40. Vast ridges of ironstone exist in the Upper River territories, not far from the Gambia river, and these may possibly be exploited in years to come.

41. The making of native cloths (pagns) still continues, but not nearly to the same extent as in the past. The reason is, that large quantities of cotton stuffs are imported from England and are made up into "bandy cloths," which are cheaper than those manufactured in this country. The weaving of the native cloths is primitive, looms of an ingenious kind being used, and the cloth woven in strips some 27 yards long and 9 inches wide.

42. It seems incredible, but the native cloth spun by hand on these looms bears favourable comparison for durability with Manchester cotton goods.

43. A number of the Bathurst people are occupied during the greater portion of the year in fishing, and excellent fish is to be obtained in the Colony.

44. Large quantities of dried fish are sent each season to the Protectorate, and as British territory borders the river, fish of a kind can always be obtained in it.

(D.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

45. It is a difficult matter in a small colony like the Gambia to deal year after year with the question of agriculture. The ground-nut is the main product, and this export has so often been described that there is nothing fresh to add, beyond once again stating that the welfare of the Colony depends entirely on this crop. The people devote almost their whole attention to it, only growing small quantities of rice, millet, koos, and corn for food.

46. The British Cotton Growing Association endeavoured, through the medium of the Government, to push the cultivation of cotton, but it is now recognised that the growing of cotton for export cannot at present prices be successful in the Gambia; in fact, from the last reports received from the cotton expert, who has been throughout the length and breadth of our territory, it is clear that the industry is dead.

47. It must not be forgotten that the main export of these countries up to the fifties was slaves, and it must be years before the required labour for all the land is forthcoming.

48. The following return shows the quantity of seed distributed during 1903, and the actual lint and cotton seed exported:—

Distribution of Cotton Seed during 1903.

Kommbo district	12,320 lbs.
North Bank district	1,600 „
South Bank district	1,750 „
McCarthy Island district	11,200 „
Upper River district...	29,120 „
	55,990 lbs., or
	24 tons 19 cwt. 3 qrs. 18 lbs.

Lint and Seed Cotton Exported during 1904.

Lint.

June 25, per "Dahomey"...	21	bags,	wg.	578 lbs. nett.
Aug. 8, per "Benin" ...	102	„	„	2,373 „ „
Sept. 22, per "Teneriffe" ...	100	bales,	„	15,603 „ „
Oct. 3, per "Volta" ...	90	„	„	14,790 „ „
Oct. 15, per "Batanga" ...	111	„	„	17,129 „ „
				50,473 „ „

Seed.

Aug. 8, per "Benin" ...	54	bags,	wg.	8,733 lbs. nett.
Sept. 22, per "Teneriffe" ...	293	„	„	44,973 „ „
Oct. 3, per "Volta"... ...	275	„	„	41,104 „ „
Oct. 15, per "Batanga" ...	334	„	„	50,210 „ „
				145,020 „ „

Recapitulation.

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Total quantity of cotton seed distributed	24	19	3	18
Total quantity of lint exported	22	10	2	17
Total quantity of seed cotton exported ...	64	14	3	8

Other Crops—Cassada.

49. During the year there have been enquiries by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., of Liverpool, through their agent in Bathurst, as to the cultivation for export of "manioca," or cassada, as it is generally called in West Africa. Cassada is a plant cultivated by most of the people in this part of the world, both for purposes of food and for the starch derived from it. It makes an excellent dish when either boiled or roasted, resembling somewhat in taste the sweet potato.

50. The plant grows in the form of a slender shrub, varying from 3 feet to 12 feet in height, with all its leaves near the top of the stem. The root is the edible part of the plant, the people making from it food known as "foofoo," by grating and straining it. Again, after the starch has been abstracted from it, the remains are dried in the sun or baked, and from these a sort of bread, called cassada bread, is made, and another kind of food known as farina.

51. The plant is indigenous to West Africa, and can be grown with very little trouble. When cultivated properly, the root of a single shrub would weigh, in some cases, as much as 20 lbs. Taking the average price, roughly, when the article is in season, its value is one halfpenny per pound.

Indigo.

52. Indigo is cultivated on a small scale. In nearly every village or town an indigo "patch" is to be seen, but it is utilised at present for local purposes only, such as the dyeing of native cloths (pagns), &c.; from the healthy look of the plants, there is no doubt that the industry might well be extended, and the small quantities that have been exported have been reported upon as being excellent. In all these questions, however, of the extension of Gambia exports, the answer must at present be "insufficient population"; this was well put by the Chief of Tambasansang, a first-rate and intelligent man, Farli Cora, when he said to the Governor during a visit, "I am ready and willing to take up these things you tell me about, but which of them pays best? As my people are so few they could not deal with them all."

Timber.

53. The only timber fit to cut for export in the whole of the Gambia is obtained in Eastern Kommbo, but in no great quantity. There is fair rosewood, but, so far, trial shipments made as experiments have resulted in loss to the exporter; such timber as is at present cut is utilised merely for shipbuilding purposes at Bathurst.

54. The other products of the Gambia were fully dealt with in last year's report.

(E.) Shipping.

55. The total tonnage for the year was 367,560 tons, or a decrease on the shipping for the year 1903 of 20,157 tons—made up as follows:—

Steam vessels	19,427	tons.
Sailing vessels	730	„
	20,157	„

56. The decrease is accounted for by the smaller quantity of ground-nuts exported during the year, a greater number of tramp steamers, known as "ground-nut boats," specially chartered for the trade, arriving in the Colony in ballast when a large crop is anticipated.

57. The following return gives in detail the total tonnage and nationality of the shipping for the years 1903 and 1904:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1903.			1904.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	248,652	724	249,376	231,918	83	232,001
French	76,127	2,273	78,400	54,790	2,510	57,300
German	25,088	—	25,088	30,908	—	30,908
Russian	8,702	—	8,702	8,486	—	8,486
American	—	3,433	3,433	—	2,090	2,090
Norwegian ...	16,690	--	16,690	14,302	391	14,693
Italian	2,724	—	2,724	2,350	—	2,350
Dutch	1,812	—	1,812	—	—	—
Portuguese ...	—	1,492	1,492	—	2,018	2,018
Danish	—	—	—	17,614	—	17,614
Spanish	—	—	—	—	100	100
Total... ...	379,795	7,922	387,717	360,368	7,192	367,560

58. The total shipping, inwards and outwards, for the past five years was as under:—

Year.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1900...	198,099	63,170	261,269
1901...	220,098	64,973	285,071
1902...	188,546	98,332	286,878
1903...	249,376	138,341	387,717
1904...	232,001	135,559	367,560
Total	1,088,120	500,375	1,588,495

III.—EDUCATION.

59. The number of children on the register of the five Primary Schools at Bathurst, belonging to the following denominations, Anglican (1), Roman Catholic (2), Wesleyan (2), is 1,036, shows a decrease of 67 children on the rolls as compared with last year. There was, however, an increase of 4 in the number of children presented at the yearly examinations held by the Inspector of Schools in December.

60. Of the 348 children who were presented for examination in the Standards I. to VII., 246 passed successfully, as will be seen at a glance from the following return:—

Schools.	Standards.							Presented for Examination.	Passed.
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.		
Roman Catholic	37	27	14	16	5	1	0	140	100
Anglican ...	14	9	7	9	0	1	0	61	40
Wesleyan ...	31	30	23	17	4	1	0	147	106
									246

61. In the sub-standards, 147 children were examined.

62. The Wesleyan Body have a school at McCarthy Island, and the number of children on the roll during the year was 61, with an average attendance of 28, but this school was not inspected during the year.

63. The amount of the Government grant earned by the denominations at their Bathurst schools in 1904 was £410 3*s.* 8*d.*

64. The grant of £18 19*s.* to the McCarthy Island (Wesleyan) school was paid on the results obtained at the examinations in 1903.

Secondary Education.

65. The only Secondary School in the Colony is that belonging to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, which was established in 1901. The average attendance is 8, the number on the roll being 12.

66. The Inspector of Schools, in his report for the year, calls special attention to the fact that the grant paid by the Government is earned almost entirely by the pupils of the lower standards. Out of the 348 children sitting at the examinations, only 36 were presented in Standards V., VI., VII., and of these, 12 only passed. This is much to be regretted, as it is only when the higher standards are reached that the education offered by the schools, elementary as it is, becomes of any

substantial use to the pupils in after life. The reason for the falling off in the attendance of pupils in the higher standards is obvious. Boys, when they reach about Standard IV., are able to get some small employment, either with their parents petty trading, or with the local merchants, by which they can earn money. This being so, they will no longer go to school. The question of offering special inducement to the senior pupils to remain at school is under consideration.

67. During the year special Educational Rules under Section 3 of the Education Ordinance, 1903, were passed; one of the chief alterations introduced is that a pupil can now earn for his school the maximum proficiency grant on his own merits, independently of the marks gained by the others.

Technical School.

68. This school, opened in 1902, for the purpose of teaching boys trades, is under the management of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and is of an undenominational character.

69. It began with 5 pupils; the attendance is now 20.

70. There is a European instructor, and excellent work has been turned out by the school, nearly all the carpentry, masonry, and blacksmithing required for the renovations in 1904 of the Wesleyan Society's premises at Stanley Street in Bathurst being done by the pupils. It must be pointed out that the lads in attendance at this institution are also taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geometrical drawing, and mensuration, one of the teachers from the Wesleyan Secondary School attending during a portion of each day at the Technical School for the purpose of instructing them in those subjects.

71. The income and expenditure of the school during the past 15 months were as under:—

Cr.	£			Dr.	£		
Work carried out ...	180	15	5	Materials and expenses.	180	13	2
Government Grant (including £300 for instruction by master tradesman).	373	7	9	Wages	134	16	11
				Instructor's salary, passage and outfit for a portion of the year.	251	0	0
By Wesleyan Society ...	182	6	6	Plans and tools ...	176	10	6
Cash in hand	0	1	8				
	736	11	4				
By Dr. Balance ...	6	9	3				
	743	0	7		743	0	7

Mohammedan School.

72. This school was opened in 1903, and has an excellent attendance. The Government grant to this institution is £110 per annum. The pupils with few exceptions are all Bathurst children, but there are 6 boys and 2 girls from the Protectorate who have been specially placed by the Government under the care of Mr. Ebriema Fye, a leading Mohammedan of Bathurst. Mr. Fye receives a grant of £18 per annum for the keep of each child.

73. The Mohammedan School is not under the Education Ordinance, though the teaching and management of it are conducted as far as possible in accordance with the requirements of the Educational Rules, and are in the hands of a Committee, of which the Governor is Chairman, and five leading Mohammedans, members; the school is also from time to time inspected by the Inspector of Schools, who furnishes the Governor with a report on it. The pupils receive instruction in the ordinary standard and sub-standard subjects. There are two English teachers and two Mohammedan.

74. During 1904, there were 112 children on the register, with an average attendance of 71; of these, 26 were presented for examination in the different Standards, I. to IV., 19 of whom passed. It will be seen, therefore, that the school is doing good work.

75. The receipts and expenses of the school were as follows:—

Government grant	£100	0	0
School fees	15	18	0
Voluntary subscriptions	23	0	0
	£138	18	0
Salaries	126	3	0
Balance in hand 1st January, 1905	£12	15	0

76. Prior to the year 1901, the Gambia shared the services of a Government Inspector of Schools with Sierra Leone, but as the arrangement was not found to work satisfactorily, so far as the Gambia was concerned, it was terminated, and the examinations of the various schools are now conducted by the Attorney-General, who has been appointed the Government Inspector for the Colony.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

77. Of recent years great improvement has taken place at the Hospital, which has been enlarged and thoroughly repaired, and is to-day one of the best on the West Coast of Africa. It contains three excellent wards, comprising first, second, and third classes, and a new building has been erected for the treatment of female patients. In 1903 three Sisters from the Convent of St. Joseph of Cluny, in France, were engaged as European nurses, and have done excellent work. The Medical Staff of the Colony consists of the Senior Medical Officer with three Assistant Medical Officers, two of whom are permanently resident at Headquarters, the third being in medical charge of the Protectorate through which he travels. This brings him in close touch with the people, and his services are already much appreciated.

78. The total number of patients admitted into the hospital during 1904 was 666, or 83 more than during the preceding year.

79. The following Table shows the number of patients treated in the hospital:—

—	Remaining in hospital 31 December, 1903.	Admitted during the year	Died.	Remaining in hospital 31 December, 1904.	Remarks.
Europeans.	1	13	—	—	Total in-patients: 1903 = 591. Increase: 1904 = 83. Deaths: 1903 = 37. 1904 — 34.
Natives ...	5	503	30	16	
Civil Police	—	49	2	1	
W.A F.F. ...	2	101	2	7	
	8	666	34	24	

80. The total number of out-patients treated during the year was no less than 10,114, or 1,637 more than in 1903.

81. To show at a glance the number of cases treated during the last 10 years, the following statement is given:—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
In-patients ...	370	256	320	393	292	221	548	452	458	666
Out-patients ...	4,274	2,893	3,808	2,618	2,229	1,956	4,574	3,387	8,477	10,114
Total ...	4,644	3,149	4,128	3,011	2,521	2,177	5,122	3,839	8,935	10,780

82. In addition to the General Hospital, there is a Contagious Disease Hospital on an outlying portion of the island.

83. The expenditure on the hospital during the past 10 years has been as follows:—

Years.	Amount.
	£
1895	1,504 0 0
1896	1,519 0 0
1897	1,574 0 0
1898	1,601 0 0
1899	1,525 0 0
1900	1,672 0 0
1901	2,023 0 0
1902	2,797 0 0
1903	3,110 0 0
1904	3,616 0 0

84. The following Table is given as of interest for the information of Insurance Offices:—

——	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Number of European Residents ...	71	88	98	103	105
" " " treated...	90	89	26	47	42
" " " died ...	9	4	2	2	—
" " " invalided	—	3	2	2	—
Malarial Fever Cases	45	54	11	15	24

85. The total expenditure incurred in connection with the Medical Department during the year was as under:—

Salaries and allowances	£2,766 5 5
Maintenance of sick and purchase of medicines, &c.	849 3 0
	£3,615 8 5

86. The receipts for the year were:—

Paying patients and sale of medicine ...	£121 6 6

This gives an approximate average expenditure by the Government of 6*s.* 6*d.* on each patient treated.

87. During the year the Protectorate Medical Officer travelled for eight months through the Protectorate, and treated upwards of 1,000 natives. Among the European officials and traders residing there, only three or four required medical attendance, and these only suffered from what were comparatively minor ailments.

88. The following analysis of the diseases treated may be of interest:

Wounds and bruises of lower extremities ...	87
Wounds and bruises of other parts	46
Growths	15
Ulcers of lower extremities	90
Ulcers in other parts	30
Diseases of the skin	86
Elephantiasis	16
*Leprosy	4
Hernia (14), Hydrocele (15)	29
Various surgical diseases	12
Constipation	229
Other diseases of the alimentary system	153
Diseases of the circulatory system...	7
Diseases of the respiratory system	86
Diseases of the nervous system	15
Diseases of the genito-urinary system	24
Rheumatism, &c., ...	16
Unclassified	6
	1,000

(B.) Savings Bank.

89. The only Savings Bank in the Colony is that inaugurated in 1884 by the Government, and is under the control of the Treasury Department.

90. The total amount remaining on deposit at the end of the year, inclusive of interest, which amounted to £123 7*s.* 4*d.*, was £5,060, or £323 less than at the end of 1903.

91. The amount deposited during the year was £2,176, while the amount withdrawn was £2,619. The number of depositors on the books was 376, as compared with 349 in 1903.

* The number of cases of leprosy entered is not an accurate index of the extent of the disease in the Protectorate, as those affected realise that medicine is of no avail, and therefore do not come for treatment.

92. The following figures show the transactions of the bank for the past five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors at close of year.	Amount Deposited.	Amount Withdrawn.	Due to Depositors at end of year.
		£	£	£
1900	219	1,856	2,279	4,774
1901	238	2,039	1,912	5,019
1902	275	2,051	2,354	4,832
1903	349	2,291	1,857	5,382
1904	376	2,176	2,619	5,060

93. The increase of depositors is due to small amounts deposited by a number of men of the West African Frontier Force.

94. The decrease in deposits, withdrawals, and amounts due to depositors, is accounted for by the increased business of the Bathurst Branch of the Bank of British West Africa.

Friendly Societies.

95. The returns filed in the Registry on the 31st March, 1904, showed the existence of 35 Friendly Societies and Clubs in the Colony, holding funds amounting in the aggregate to £631 5*s.* 7*d.*

V.—LEGISLATION.

96. The following Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1.—"To consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Navigation of the Colonial Waters.'

No. 2.—"To make provision for giving effect to a Convention signed the Fifth day of March, Nineteen hundred and two, in relation to Sugar."

No. 3.—To make better provision for the management of the Market of Bathurst."

No. 4.—"To simplify titles and facilitate the transfer of land in the Colony of the Gambia."

No. 5.—"To amend the Patents for Inventions Ordinance, 1900."

No 6.—"To amend the Trade Marks (Registration) Ordinance, 1900."

No. 7.—"To repeal the Registration of Designs Ordinance, 1903."

No. 8.—"To make provision for notice to be given of marriages intended to be solemnized under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1892."

No. 9.—"To make provision for Public Holidays and respecting obligations to make payments and do other acts on such Public Holidays."

No. 10.—"To make provision for the removal of lunatics from the Colony."

No. 11.—"To legalize certain payments made in the year 1903 beyond the expenditure authorised by law."

No. 12.—"To provide for the service of the Colony of the Gambia for the year 1905.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

97. The authorised strength of this force during the year was 82 of all ranks, made up as follows:—1 superintendent, 1 assistant superintendent, and 80 rank and file; 68 non-commissioned officers and men are stationed at Bathurst and 12 distributed in different parts of the Protectorate, and these latter are under the direction of the Travelling Commissioners of the districts in which they are serving.

98. The men of the force perform the usual police duties, and are also detailed for special escort duty to the Protectorate from time to time. No armed police are permitted to go into the Protectorate without the sanction of the Governor.

99. During the year 16 men left the force from various causes, six being dismissed for misconduct. The general health was good.

100. The men are trained in drill and the use of arms, as the force is considered to be a semi-military one, and in case of trouble in the Protectorate might be called upon to assist the West African Frontier Force.

101. They are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines, and have three 7-pounder R.M.L. guns.

102. In connection with the force there is a fire brigade, which was formed in 1903. It is provided with a 30-man manual, by Messrs. Merryweather & Son, which is fitted with 1,000 ft. of hose and three lengths of suction hose. The manual was specially obtained for the purpose of protecting Government property and the large mercantile houses situated on the river front.

103. The brigade drills twice each week, and every Thursday training in the use of the manual engine and hose is carried

out. During the year there were seven small fires, with a loss of property amounting to £48—very insignificant for a town like Bathurst.

104. The force has an excellent brass band, which plays in McCarthy Square to the delight of the community each Wednesday afternoon. With the sanction of the Governor, the band can be engaged for local festivities.

The discipline of the force was, on the whole, very satisfactory during the year.

105. The cost to the Government of maintaining the force in 1904 amounted to £4,105 18*s.* 2*d.*, as against £4,323 13*s.* in 1903.

(B.) Prisons.

106. The Prison is not so good a building as could be wished, but it is sufficient for the present demands of the Colony. There are 19 cells and four association wards for male prisoners. In 1903 the prison was repaired and the cells enlarged, but the "separate system," though generally in force, is not always possible owing to want of accommodation. The prisoners are employed by day in gangs, and at night are, when practicable, located in separate cells, but in some cases three or four have had to be placed in one large ward. The labour required from prisoners pronounced medically fit is, during the first three months, shot drill for three hours per diem, and, subsequently, stone-breaking, washing, carting stones, and such other public works as may be deemed suitable. There is no tread-wheel in use, although years ago this system of hard labour was in force. The average cost to the Government of this institution is about £700 per annum.

107. The diet of the prisoner is fixed by Order in Council, and is, in the opinion of the Senior Medical Officer, ample. Sick prisoners receive such special diets as are prescribed by the Medical Officer.

108. The following statement shows the comparative table of convictions for crime during the past decade:—

Years.	Male.	Female.	Juvenile.	Total	Executions.
1895 ...	58	5	—	63	1
1896 ...	63	6	1	70	1
1897 ...	34	3	—	37	—
1898 ...	48	4	1	53	—
1899 ...	38	6	—	44	—
1900 ...	25	1	1	27	—
1901 ...	56	1	—	57	3
1902 ...	94	6	—	100	4
1903 ...	86	1	—	87	1
1904 ...	88	—	—	88	1

The general health of the prisoners during the year was good.

109. The deaths from natural causes were three—two from beri-beri and one from bronchitis.

110. The prisoners generally are very well behaved, and give little or no trouble. There were nine offences of a trivial nature against Prison Regulations. No corporal punishment was inflicted during the year.

111. The estimated earnings of the prisoners for the Department were £151 2*s.* 10*d.*, and the cost of the upkeep of the establishment to the Government £726 6*s.* 0*d.*

112. The admissions during the year were 93 (including prisoners awaiting trial) which number, with 24 remaining from 1903, gives a total of 117. The average cost to the Government of each prisoner is therefore £6 4*s.* 2*d.* per head.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

113. During the year 1904 the total number of cases that came before the Police Court was 195, as against 190 in 1903, and they were dealt with as follows:—

Acquitted	73
Summarily convicted	111
Committed for trial in the Supreme Court	9
	193

114. The summary convictions were for the undermentioned offences:—

Against the person	32
Larceny, &c.	10
Offences against property ...	1
Other offences	68
	111

115. The nine cases that came before the Supreme Court were disposed of as under:—

—	Number of Cases.	Judgment for Crown.	Judgment for Prisoner.	Extradition Case.
Murder	3	1	2	1
Offences against the person...	2	1	1	—
Larceny	2	2	—	—
Miscellaneous Offences ...	1	1	—	—
Case thrown out	1	—	—	—

116. There were 156 cases disposed of by Summary Courts in the Protectorate during the year, as against 216 in 1903. Offences against the person numbered 55, 54 of them being disposed of by fines. There were 67 convictions for special offences under the Protectorate Ordinance No. 7 of 1902, in 63 of which fines were imposed, four persons only being committed to prison.

The majority of the cases, which, it can be seen, were not of a serious nature, came from the North Bank and Upper River districts.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

117. The population in April, 1901, when the last Census was taken, gave a return for the Colony and Protectorate of 90,404, but, at that time no portion of Fulladu was under British protection; the population of this territory was, in 1904, estimated at 24,484, which increases the total to nearly 115,000. These figures, however, can at best be only approximate, and it may fairly be assumed that the population exceeds the number stated by at least 25 per cent. It would, however, at any time be a difficult matter to obtain correct figures, and if such an attempt were made trouble might arise, as the natives are suspicious and would at once jump to the conclusion that fresh taxation of some sort was about to be introduced by the Government. Moreover, a large portion of the population in the Protectorate is continually on the move, owing to the numbers of strange farmers who come into British territory for the planting season only, and to the Fulahs who cross the boundary with their cattle for pasturage; and these people it is impossible to enumerate.

118. The Census Return for the Colony and Protectorate in 1901 was as follows:—

——	Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Protectorate...	1901.	36,522	40,396	76,948
Colony	1901.	7,383	6,073	13,456
Total... ...	—	43,935	46,469	90,404

119. The area of the Colony is said to be 3,700 square miles; if 25 per cent. be added to the population as at present estimated

for temporary settlers, such as strange farmers and herdsmen, a return of nearly 39 persons to the square mile will be obtained, and this I consider may be regarded as fairly accurate.

120. The births registered in Bathurst were 314, and 57 in the Protectorate, but the latter figure is of no value, the compulsory registration of births not being in force in the Protectorate.

121. The figures above given are explained as follows:

District.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Bathurst	160	154	314

122. The births in Bathurst were 17 more than in 1903, and represent a birth rate of 35·6 per 1,000.

123. There were 303 deaths registered in Bathurst, or 34·4 per 1,000, which compares favourably with last year's return.

The marriages registered in Bathurst were 19.

(B.) Public Health.

124. The Public Health of Bathurst during the year was very satisfactory. There was no epidemic disease, and the town was free from any infectious or contagious disease.

Cases of dysentery and diarrhœa increased, but did not assume an epidemic form. These diseases are mostly due in Africa to the indifference shown by the people to the quality of the water they consume. The small rainfall during 1904 may also be responsible for the increase in some measure.

Among the European population of 100, the health was exceptionally good, there being no serious cases of illness. There were no deaths, and no one was invalided.

125. The following Table shows the total deaths from disease at all ages and under 5 years, and the rate of each per 1,000 of the population of Bathurst:—

Year.	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Deaths under 5 years.	Rate per 1,000.
1900	350	39·77	120	13·75
1901	340	38·63	137	15·56
1902	266	30·22	112	12·72
1903	315	35·79	130	14·77
1904	303	34·40	124	14·07

126. From the foregoing Table it will be seen that there was a tendency to an improvement in the general health of the town, due in a great measure to the people having more confidence in the treatment received at the hospital.

127. It used to be a difficult matter to get patients to attend at this institution, and even now among the lower classes of the community there are some who will not present themselves for treatment until their illness has obtained too great a hold upon them. This, in a measure, is reponsible for the apparently high death rate.

128. The work of the hospital is, however, doing much to dispel the superstition, which is very prevalent among the people of this country, that all their diseases are attributable to one of two causes—either they have been "bewitched," or some enemy has made "gree gree" against them. There are two forms of "gree gree," one that is administered internally and most usually consists of an infusion made of roots, leaves and bark from trees supposed to have the desired properties, and the other by spells which are worked with much ceremony, the process being usually accompanied by incantations and dancing.

129. The treatment relied upon in many cases for cure, and much practised in the country, is to call in a "native doctor," who, after examining the patient, writes something in Arabic characters on a wooden slate, generally extracts from the Koran. The slate is then washed, and the dirty infusion drunk by the patient. But the people have many herbs which they boil for internal as well as external applications—shea butter for instance, is used for rheumatism, sprains, bruises, &c., but the increased number of cases treated by the Medical Officers shows clearly that the old superstitions of the people are rapidly dying out. The diseases most commonly fatal among West Africans are acute liver and kidney diseases, pneumonia, and phthisis. Intermittent fever is very common among them, but seldom fatal. Many of the up-country people suffer from aggravated types of elephantiasis and small-pox, but vaccination, in preference to the country system of inoculation, is progressing apace, and will do much to abate the latter.

(C.) Sanitation.

130. The Board of Health is responsible for the sanitary condition of the town, which was kept up to the usual efficient standard.

131. For ordinary sanitation work 20 labourers and two horses and carts are daily employed collecting house refuse, which is conveyed to the waste, swampy land at the back of the town. All street rubbish is similarly disposed of, but when

it is utilised for filling in depressions in the land, all vegetable matter is first destroyed.

After the annual rains it was found necessary to engage 10 extra labourers for clearing the heavy growth of weeds which had sprung up. These men were also employed in the anti-mosquito sanitation work, filling up depressions in the roads and collecting and disposing of old rubbish, tins, bottles, &c., in which water might collect and serve as a breeding place for mosquitoes.

132. During the year 3,381 cartloads of house refuse and other rubbish were removed by the Board of Health carts, and 5,181 house-to-house visits were made by the Inspector of Nuisances. In addition, the Senior Medical Officer made periodical visits about the town, impressing upon the people the necessity of keeping their compounds clear of rubbish and of removing all filth, &c.

133. Special new French pumps have been placed at the important wells throughout the town, which have been covered carefully so as to keep out all refuse, dust, leaves, &c. New latrines have been erected, and the old ones cleaned and renovated.

134. The members of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (Professor Boyce, Dr. Evans, and Dr. Clarke), who recently visited Bathurst, commented favourably on the cleanly condition of the town of Bathurst, and justly so. For a tropical town in West Africa, it is kept in admirable order.

(D.) Climate.

135. The climate of the Gambia during the dry season is very pleasant, and is healthy, which is more than can be said for many of our other British Possessions on the West Coast of Africa, but during the wet season, July to October, the conditions are much the same as elsewhere on the Coast; perhaps they are more trying to the inhabitants, as the change from excessive dryness to a damp atmosphere of that miasmic nature so prevalent in the Gulf of Guinea is much more rapid, and therefore more marked than in the other West African Colonies.

136. The lowest reading of the thermometer during the dry season was 56 degrees at Bathurst, and the highest recorded temperature there 100 degrees; but up country at Pachare, on the south bank of the river, the lowest temperature experienced by the Governor during a trip in January was 40 degrees at 6 a.m., the highest record on the same day showing 99 degrees. In the wet season of 1903 the lowest temperature recorded at Bathurst was 67 degrees, and the highest 92 degrees.

137. The Harmattan wind usually sets in early in December, and is welcomed after the oppressive weather of October and November. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and though cool and bracing in the morning, becomes hot under the influence of the sun. The highest temperature is usually between 2 and 3 o'clock p.m.

138. The Harmattan is an intermittent wind, blowing for a few days, and alternating with a refreshing sea breeze. This state of things continues well into April, the month of February being the time when the Harmattan is most prevalent.

139. The months of July and October are considered the most unpleasant and unhealthy in Bathurst; in June, when the rainy season is coming on and the sea breeze has abated, the atmosphere becomes very hot and oppressive, the days immediately preceding the rains being most stifling; these are, however, generally terminated by tornadoes and heavy rain. The first rains generally begin about the middle of June, but the wet season is not finally established until well into July, this month, with August and September, showing the principal rainfall of the season.

140. The following is the Meteorological Return for the year 1904:

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	
January...	157	88	55	33	71·7	—	
February	165	96	57	39	75·6	—	
March ...	165	97	57	40	72·4	—	
April ...	166	102	59	43	74·3	—	
May ...	166	99	60	39	72·8	—	
June ...	157	90	62	28	75·9	2·78	
July ...	159	87	68	19	77·6	9·69	
August ...	159	89	67	22	77·3	17·27	Total Rainfall.
September	164	92	66	26	78·8	5·38	
October ...	163	92	64	28	79·1	2·22	38·02 in.
November	160	90	63	27	77·4	·68	
December	156	91	57	34	74·1	—	
Monthly Average.	161·4	92·7	61·2	31·5	75·5	6·33	

141. As a rule, a heavy rainy season is considered healthy, especially if tornadoes are frequent, as they clear the air and make it cool and pure.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Communication with the Colony.

142. Transport between the Colony and Europe is effected by the steamers of the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, managed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company, whose head office is at 6, Water Street, Liverpool. These steamers run fortnightly between Liverpool and Bathurst.

143. With regard to the criticisms which were made in last year's Blue Book Report as to the speed, comfort, and punctuality of these services, it is satisfactory to record that some of the old ships which performed the Northern Windward service of the line are being taken off and replaced by a better class of vessel.

144. The Woermann Line from Hamburg communicates with the Colony once each month; these steamers do not call at Bathurst on the homeward passage, but proceed direct to Europe from Sierra Leone.

145. The well-known French Line, the Messageries Maritimes, sailing from Bordeaux to South America, calls at Dakar twice each month, and passengers often join it there, as the vessels belonging to this company are very good and get to Europe in eight days.

146. The cost of the passage by this line is, however, between £22 and £25, according to cabin, whilst that by the English Line is £18 10*s.* only, for a 16 days' journey; but even this rate might reasonably be reduced to £15.

147. In addition to the above-mentioned vessels, ground-nut boats run frequently during the export season, and are usually prepared to take passengers at a lower figure than the mail steamers, namely £10, but the accommodation and service are, of course, not of the best; in fact, are very poor indeed.

148. There is a river service from Bathurst to McCarthy Island, in the Protectorate, by the Government yacht "Mansah Kilah" each Tuesday morning, the vessel returning on the Friday, the first class fare by her being 2*d.* per mile and 1*d.* per mile for "deckers"; she also carries a small quantity of freight when required to do so, and under special arrangement vessels are towed at a fixed rate.

Post Office.

149. The postage of letters to the United Kingdom, India, and certain Colonies is 1*d.* per ½ oz., 1*d.* per oz. being charged for letters by inland post.

150. The Return given below shows the amount of postal matter dealt with during the past five years:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Letters, postcards, newspapers, &c.	66,612	77,937	77,918	94,365	94,358
Parcels	789	1,151	1,340	1,532	1,677
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Money Orders issued	9,653 2 6	9,865 4 1	3,254 0 9	2,410 0 0	1,490 4 2
Money Orders paid	175 19 5	365 8 4	815 19 9	159 0 0	292 14 2

151. The Revenue of the Post Office during 1904 was £597, while that for 1903 was £553; this shows a slight increase in favour of the year under report.

152. The Postal Revenues for the past 10 years are as under:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1895	686	1900...	459
1896	1,506	1901...	789
1897	1,845	1902...	1,452
1898	2,140	1903...	553
1899	589	1904...	597

153. As far as the departmental revenue is concerned, although an increase is shown on the year's working, there is a considerable decrease as compared with the years 1896 to 1898 and with 1902.

154. The revenue collected in these years was to a great extent derived from the large sale of stamps to dealers and commission on the money order system, there being at that time no bank in the Colony. The past year has shown a decided falling off in the issue of money orders, and consequently a loss in commission; this is due to the establishment at Bathurst of a branch of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, which issues bills of exchange for any amount from £1 upwards at charges that compare more than favourably with those imposed by the Government; the result is that the majority of those traders who are large importers of kola nuts from Sierra Leone, and many private persons, prefer bills of exchange to money orders.

155. The value of the money orders issued in 1904 was £1,491, that in 1902 and 1903 respectively £3,254 and £2,410. The money orders paid were £293 in 1904; in 1902 £816, and in 1903 £159.

156. The postal order system between the United Kingdom and British Colonies has, however, been introduced, and, being a decided boon to the community, may benefit the postal revenue next year. In addition, six new denominations of postage stamps will be brought into use. The Colony's issues will then be ½*d.*, 1*d.*, 2½*d.*, 3*d.*, 4*d.*, 5*d.*, 6*d.*, 7½*d.*, 10*d.*, 1*s.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.*, and the sale of these issues will materially aid the revenue. Higher denomination are at present considered unnecessary, there being no Stamp Duties Ordinance in the Colony.

157. The expenditure of the department during the year was £671, as compared with £620 in 1903. The increase is due to a re-arrangement of the staff, which it is hoped will bring about efficient working of the department and also accelerate the despatch of the mails.

Telegraphs.

158. Bathurst is in communication with Europe, &c., by cable, the African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, having a station on the island. The company receives a subsidy from the Government of £500 per annum, and charge the general public 3*s.* 6*d.* a word to Great Britain and Ireland; 1*s.* to Sierra Leone; 2*s.* 2*d.* to the Gold Coast; and 2*s.* 10*d.* to Lagos and thence to Bonny.

Half the above rates are paid by the Government.

Telephones.

159. All the important Government Offices are connected by telephone, but the system has not as yet been extended to the mercantile houses, &c.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

160. A Company of the West African Frontier Force, comprising one captain (commanding), two lieutenants, two European sergeants, and 126 rank and file, has been raised in the Colony, and is always stationed there. In addition there is the armed police force, before alluded to.

161. The West African Frontier Force is, like the police, armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine, and is provided with a Maxim gun. In addition, there are two 6-pounder quick-firing Hotchkiss guns.

162. The Company was encamped for their annual course of field training, from January to April, at Cape St. Mary, where it is proposed to erect a fine new rifle range, the old one

at the Malfa Creek, which was perfectly safe when the Snider rifles were in use, not being suitable for the long-range carbine with which the troops are now armed.

163. Once during the year the Company was called upon to proceed on service to the Protectorate, on an occasion which will be described in paragraph 175.

164. The expenditure on the force during the year was £5,388 3*s.* 7*d.*, as against £5,744 9*s.* in 1903. The decrease is explained in paragraph 7.

X.—THE PROTECTORATE.

165. The system of government in force in the Protectorate of the Gambia was inaugurated in 1893 by Mr. R. B. Llewelyn, C.M.G. (now Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G.), in which year two Travelling Commissioners were first appointed; one for the North Bank, the other for the South Bank. At the present time there are five Travelling Commissioners, whose districts are as follows:—

1. Kommbo, Fogni, and a portion of Kiang-Kommbo is divided into five parts: Kommbo St. Mary, hitherto British Kommbo, North, South, Central, and East Kommbo, with a total area of some 450 square miles and a population roughly estimated at 7,050. The Fogni country also forms part of this district, and is divided as follows: West Fogni, Vintang, Freffet, Karanai, East Fogni, Kansalla, and Bondali, with an area of 335 square miles and an approximate population of 5,750. In addition, West and West Central Kiang are under the Commissioner of Kommbo.

2. There is a Commissioner of the South Bank District, whose territory comprises East Central and Eastern Kiang, Eastern, Central, and Western Jarra, together with Eastern and Western Niamina. The estimated area of these countries is 725 square miles, with a total population of some 19,000 people.

3. The Upper River District is the largest tract of country under a Commissioner, and comprises Kantora, Fulladu East, Gambasara, and Fulladu West on the South Bank of the River, with Wuli and Sandu on the North Bank. The area is, roughly, 950 square miles, with a population of 37,000.

4. McCarthy Island District is divided into Upper Niani, Lower Niani, Eastern Saloum (N'Jau), and Nianija, and comprises some 440 square miles of territory, with a population of 16,000.

See p. 41.

5. The fifth District is under the North Bank Commissioner, and in it are found the countries of Upper and Lower Baddibu, Jokado, Lower Saloum, and Lower and Upper Niumi, with an area of 800 square miles and a population of 45,000.

166. On the 11th April, 1902, Ordinance No. 7, making better provision for the management of the Protectorate was passed. This far-reaching enactment was based on the Protectorate Ordinance of 1894; it provides for the executive government of the interior countries, the appointment of native tribunals, and the management of the districts. Each Commissioner's District is sub-divided into separate districts, over each of which there is a Head Chief, who has a court or tribunal, of which the Headmen of some of the more important towns are members. The Courts are appointed by the Governor, and they assist the Commissioners in District affairs and hear and adjudicate petty cases. The Commissioner, in addition, can, when he thinks fit, hold Courts.

167. The tour of the Travelling Commissioners in the Gambia is for the eight months of the dry season, from November to the end of June, and during this period they go up and down their districts advising and guiding the people and seeing that law and order are observed. Serious crimes are rarely committed, and, when they do occur, the people from over the boundary are, as a rule, responsible for them.

168. It has not been thought advisable to give a detailed précis of the districts under the five Commissioners, but full particulars will be found in a book that will shortly be published, entitled "The History and Development of the Gambia."

169. The following statement gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure in the various districts during the last financial year:—

Revenue received in the Protectorate during the year 1904.

Sub-heads.	Estimated.			Actual.			Remarks.
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Hut Tax	3,000	0	0	3,168	7	6	
Traders' Licenses	850	0	0	948	4	0	
Farm Rents	880	0	0	931	8	0	
Pasturage Fees	475	0	0	327	7	9	
Court Fines	450	0	0	539	19	9	
Royalty on Timber	50	0	0	17	8	2	
Miscellaneous	50	0	0	240	4	8	
Total	5,755	0	0	6,172	19	10	

Expenditure of the Protectorate during the year 1904.

Sub-heads.	Estimated.			Actual			Remarks
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Salaries	2,204	0	0	2,120	17	6	
Allowances to Commissioners ...	760	0	0	565	15	0	
Stipends to Chiefs...	871	0	0	672	16	8	
Commission on Hut Tax ...	150	0	0	167	16	0	
„ Farm Rents ...	440	0	0	268	8	6	
„ Depasturage Fees	95	0	0	0	4	0	
Fees to Native Courts	30	0	0	20	11	0	
Lodging and maintenance ...	75	0	0	77	11	6	
Presents to Chiefs...	350	0	0	682	3	8	
Messengers to Chiefs	60	0	0	103	16	0	
Maintenance of Political Prisoners	33	0	0	35	15	0	
„ Alien children ...	10	0	0	6	18	0	
Writing Arabic Letters	5	0	0	2	1	0	
Passages	148	0	0	166	10	0	
Upkeep of Roads	250	0	0	206	8	0	
Uniforms for Interpreters ...	12	0	0	5	19	0	
Maintenance of children of Chiefs	—			46	0	0	
Total	5,493	0	0	5,149	10	10	

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

170. The progress of the Colony has been steadily maintained, the large rainfall in August of the preceding year not having seriously affected the crops, which, with the exception of rice, were very large, the export of the staple product, ground-nuts, being second only to that of 1903.

171. As against the 57·15 inches rainfall in 1903, that during the year under report was only 38 inches, or some 13 inches below the average for the past 20 years; and this, undoubtedly, has had a bad effect on the crops this year, the ground-nuts exported during the trading season 1903-04 being some 43,000 tons, whereas only some 30,000 tons will be shipped by the merchants for the season of 1904-05. It is, however, hoped that the introduction of new seed and the advice and directions the people get from the Government as to the proper period for reaping the crop, will bring about a better state of affairs than is anticipated for 1905.

172. A notworthy incident during the year was the visit of Sir George Denton, the Governor of the Gambia, in June last, to Mons. Roume, the Governor-General of French West Africa, at Goree. Sir G. Denton was accorded a most cordial and imposing welcome, and the present good understanding existing between the Government of the Gambia and that of Senegal, is,

in no small measure, due to this visit, which has undoubtedly had a very good influence and should be the means of strengthening the friendly relations which have for some time existed between the two Colonies.

173. During the year Brigadier-General G. V. Kemball, D.S.O., R.A., Inspector-General of the West African Frontier Force, together with his Staff Officer, Captain W. H. Maud, visited the Colony and inspected the Gambia Company, which was undergoing its annual course of field training at Cape St. Mary, Kommbo.

174. A visit was paid in February to the Gambia by the South Atlantic Squadron, under the command of Commodore (now Rear-Admiral) Frank Finnis, A.D.C. The visit was appreciated by all, as both officers and men did much to enliven the dull routine of life in Bathurst, and moreover the presence of the Fleet caused the circulation of a considerable amount of money in the Colony.

175. In consequence of a murder which was committed by a Jolah at the town of Wappai, in the Fogni country, and the refusal by the Chief of the town to arrest and surrender the murderer when directed to do so, it became necessary to send up the Company of the West African Frontier Force to enforce the orders of the Government, and to bring the Chief to Headquarters to answer for his negligence in not complying with the instructions issued to him. On the arrival of the force at its destination it was, however, discovered that, not only the murderer, but the Chief himself and the majority of the people, had fled from the village and crossed the boundary into French territory, and up to the present time they have not returned to the Protectorate. At the same time the object of the expedition was not altogether lost, as it tended to remind the natives of this turbulent district that the Government was alive to its obligation of promptly punishing crime and seeing that law and order are maintained.

176. For the first time in the annals of the Colony some of the principal native Chiefs of the Protectorate have sent their children to Bathurst to be educated at the Mohammedan School, which has recently been established there. This is strong evidence that the Government is at last succeeding in getting the people of the Protectorate to recognize the value of education, without which no real progress in any country can possibly be made. But it has taken a long time to effect anything in this direction, as the people of this part of the world are most conservative and hate the introduction of any new measures, being only too willing to continue the practices followed years and years ago by their forefathers.

177. At the close of the year six children from the Protectorate were at the Mohammedan School; they have been placed

by the Government in charge of an influential Mohammedan, well-known to and trusted by their parents.

178. Towards the close of the year a visit was paid to the Colony, as already mentioned, by Mr. Rupert Boyce, Professor of Pathology and Dean of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. With him were Dr. Evans and Dr. Clarke, also from the Tropical School. The visit was in connection with the various expeditions that are being sent out by the Liverpool Institution to West Africa to inquire into the sanitary condition of our Coast Colonies and to suggest the best measures that can be adopted for the promotion of health generally. Much has been done by these missions, and valuable reports have been written by the medical officers comprising them. Professor Boyce and his assistants were very much pleased with all they saw in Bathurst, and expressed themselves as satisfied with the existing sanitary arrangements.

179. The following public works were carried out:—The renovation and extension of the quarters of the Collector of Customs and those of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Police, and the building of new offices for the Attorney-General and Local Auditor. Towards the end of the year very extensive repairs to Government House were commenced, and great improvements are being carried into effect there. The work is now nearly completed.

180. The main roads and bridges in Kommbo have been properly looked after. The Government has still hopes of inducing the Protectorate people to adopt carts as a means of transport, instead of the present custom of carrying all loads on the head; but, as before mentioned, the conservative principles of these people are so strong that such a startling innovation to them as using carts must be a question of time.

181. The following temporary alterations in the Civil Establishment took place during the year:—

Mr. H. M. Brandford Griffith, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, acted as Governor during the period Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., was absent on leave, Mr. F. Bisset Archer, Treasurer, performing the duties of Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. Brown, Superintendent of Police, acting as Collector of Customs, and also as Chief Magistrate during the absence of Mr. A. D. Russell from the Colony. Dr. Emilius Hopkinson, D.S.O., was appointed to the Medical Staff of the Colony for duty in the Protectorate.

182. The death of Dr. D. P. H. Taylor, M.R.C.S., who had been Coroner and Public Vaccinator of the Colony for many years, is recorded with great regret. He has been succeeded in the office of Coroner by Mr. C. W. Thomas, Clerk of Courts.

183. Mr. G. J. Thomas, who had been Manager of Kommbo for some considerable time, retired on pension during the year.

184. Before closing this report it is necessary to say a few additional words with regard to the cotton industry in this Colony. Everything possible has been done to develope the production of cotton, but the people will have none of it, and this is not to be wondered at, as the staple produce—groundnuts—pays them more than double the profit likely to be obtained from cotton, and it is impossible, owing to the small population in the Protectorate, to cultivate satisfactorily two crops, both of which require great attention and labour.

185. Again, from various reports received from the cotton expert who was specially appointed, it is feared that the soil in the Gambia is hardly suitable for the production of cotton on any large scale.

186. During the year a Commission was appointed for the purpose of revising the Rating List, and the increased revenue derived therefrom was some £80, representing an additional valuation of £2,600 on house property in Bathurst.

An amended survey of the town is much needed; the new streets could then be named, the houses numbered, and the register of lands, &c., brought up to date; but to carry out this proposal the appointment of a qualified surveyor would be necessary, and it would involve considerable expenditure.

187. In closing this report, it must be recorded that the inhabitants throughout the Colony and Protectorate continue to enjoy peace and prosperity, and are proud of being under British protection.

F. Bisset Archer,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
427	Lagos	1903
428	Bahamas	1903–1904
429	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1903
430	Mauritius	„
431	Seychelles	„
432	Barbados...	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	„
435	Straits Settlements	„
436	Grenada	„
437	Northern Nigeria	„
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	„
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 & 1903–1904
441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	„
443	St. Lucia	„
444	Basutoland	„
445	Leeward Islands...	„
446	St. Vincent	„
447	Bermuda	1904
448	Saint Helena	„
449	Falkland Islands	„
450	Weihaiwei	„
451	Hong Kong	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Islands...	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 491.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 452.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1906.

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No. 491.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1904, see No. 452.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
18th June, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1905, together with a report on it by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. M. B. Griffith, C.M.G.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,
Governor.

1125 Wt 23907 8/06 D & S 5 25484 A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The total revenue for the year amounted to £51,868. Although £2,312 less than that collected for the previous year, the receipts may be considered as very fair when it is remembered that the largest revenue ever collected was £55,564. The actual revenue exceeded the estimated receipts by £2,073.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1904 and 1905; also the several increases and decreases:—

Heads of Revenue.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs..	39,933 14 2	35,053 16 7	—	4,879 17 7
Port Dues	1,080 0 0	831 15 0	—	248 5 0
Licences, Excise, &c.	1,210 1 8	1,588 0 8	377 19 0	—
Fees of Court, &c	1,020 1 1	1,057 10 1	37 9 0	—
Post Office	596 7 9	2,730 14 0	2,134 6 3	—
Government Vessels	533 17 9	135 17 4	—	398 0 5
Rents (Government Property)	364 2 9	362 19 6	—	1 3 3
Interest	1,673 0 11	1,633 11 3	—	39 9 8
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,583 13 9	1,398 19 11	—	184 13 10
Protectorate	6,172 19 10	7,014 4 4	841 4 6	—
	54,167 19 8	51,807 8 8	3,390 18 9	5,751 9 9
Land Sales	12 0 0	61 0 0	49 0 0	—
	54,179 19 8	51,868 8 8	3,439 18 9	5,751 9 9

3. The increases were due—

Under licences, to the issue of more spirit licences in the Protectorate during the year;

Under Post Office, to the denominations of stamps being increased by the issue of 5*d.*, 7½*d.*, 10*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s* 6*d.* and 3*s.* stamps, and to the alteration in the watermark; and

Under Protectorate, to the issue of more traders' licences and to increased collections under farm rents.

4. The decreases under Customs were due to the falling off in the output of the ground-nut crop, which failed to reach the estimate by over 6,000 tons, thus making a difference of over £2,000 in Customs receipts, and a falling off in the import of

spirits and goods liable to *ad valorem* duties, following the bad trading season:—

Under port dues, the decrease was owing to fewer vessels entering the port, following the falling off in the ground-nut crop; and

Under Government vessels, to the Government steamer having to be laid up for a considerable time for repairs and finally condemned.

Although miscellaneous receipts show a decrease when compared with the receipts of 1904, which were unusually large in that year owing to the sale of a quantity of ammunition to the Governments of Sierra Leone and Nigeria, it may be mentioned that the receipts under this head for 1905 were well above the estimate.

5. The amount of revenue received under Customs was:—Import duty, £25,221; export duty, £9,833; making a total of £35,054.

6. The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1904 and 1905, with their respective increases and decreases:—

Comparative Statement of Customs Revenue for 1904 *and* 1905.

Heads of Receipts.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports.				
Ad valorem	5,370 11 7	4,593 5 11	—	777 5 8
Wine	811 17 8	798 4 6	—	13 13 2
Spirits	4,113 6 0	3,877 12 0	—	235 14 0
Malt liquor	235 9 3	132 11 0	—	102 18 3
Tobacco	3,049 10 6	4,135 15 0	1,086 4 6	—
Oils, turps, &c.	664 16 2	718 8 3	53 12 1	—
Sugar	2,251 2 0	1,861 13 11	—	389 8 1
Kola nuts	6,808 15 10	6,820 4 9	11 8 11	—
Rice	1,343 7 8	1,345 12 9	2 5 1	—
Guns and Pistols	120 0 0	197 12 0	77 12 0	—
Powder	55 4 2	97 14 7	42 10 5	—
Salt	419 13 11	334 3 0	—	85 10 11
Kerosene	204 12 7	303 0 5	98 7 10	—
Coffee (raw)	6 7 4	4 19 9	—	1 7 7
	25,454 14 8	25,220 17 10	1,372 0 10	1,605 17 8
Export.				
Ground-nuts	14,478 19 6	9,832 18 9	—	4,646 0 9
Total	39,933 14 2	35,053 16 7	1,372 0 10	6,251 18 5

7. The expenditure for the year amounted to £72,297, and while showing a decrease of £3,742 on the estimated expenditure of £76,039, the actual expenditure exceeded the revenue of £51,868 by £20,429, and shows an increase of expenditure as compared with 1904 of £19,997. This heavy expenditure was due to payments for a dredger required in connection with the Kai Hai works; to the cost of material for the jetty extension; and to the purchase of a new steamer having to be made within the year.

8. The following return shows the heads of expenditure for 1904 and 1905, together with the various increases and decreases:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions..	1,002 14 9	1,044 10 9	41 16 0	—
The Governor..	3,466 4 10	3,922 14 3	456 9 5	—
The Colonial Secretary	1,191 6 6	1,202 1 5	10 14 11	—
The Protectorate	5,149 10 10	7,852 11 8	2,703 0 10	—
Printing Department	372 8 1	339 16 10	—	32 11 3
Treasury	1,109 6 4	1,163 12 9	54 6 5	—
Customs Department	2,066 12 0	2,076 17 0	10 5 0	—
Post Office	671 0 9	808 4 9	137 4 0	—
Audit Department	577 0 11	596 0 7	18 19 8	—
Judicial Department	1,252 12 6	1,242 15 11	—	9 16 7
Attorney-General	499 1 7	470 4 9	—	28 16 10
Education	1,123 0 11	1,325 12 7	202 11 8	—
Frontier Force	5,388 3 7	6,090 12 9	702 9 2	—
Police	4,105 18 2	4,079 3 3	—	26 14 11
Prisons	726 6 0	702 15 4	—	23 10 8
Medical Department	2,851 2 11	2,960 18 4	109 15 5	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	917 15 10	959 8 8	41 12 10	—
Government Vessels	2,355 4 1	1,960 8 9	—	394 15 4
Charitable Allowances	101 9 4	101 7 11	—	0 1 5
Transport	272 9 4	334 2 3	61 12 11	—
Miscellaneous Services	2,388 6 0	3,161 0 0	772 14 0	—
Drawback, &c.	309 14 3	79 9 7	—	230 4 11
Agriculture	738 16 10	391 12 11	—	347 3 11
Colonial Engineer's Department ..	1,651 5 6	1,700 3 2	48 17 8	—
Public Works—Recurrent	4,790 3 2	4,001 15 4	—	788 7 10
Public Works—Extraordinary	4,858 11 1	16,074 5 4	11,215 14 3	—
Special Services	2,364 6 5	7,654 18 3	5,290 11 10	—
Total	52,300 12 9	72,297 5 1	21,878 16 0	1,882 3 8

9. The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Pensions.—To the pension of £230, which became payable to Mr. H. Reeve, C.M.G., late Colonial Engineer, during the year, which was unestimated for, less amounts undrawn owing to the death of other pensioners.

Governor.—To the extended tour of the Governor through the Protectorate from January to May, which was not taken into consideration when the estimates were under preparation, and to a special expenditure on account of furniture for Government House, which was sanctioned after the estimates were passed.

The Protectorate.—To the expenditure in connection with the replacing of the boundary pillars during 1904 not having been brought to account until 1905, and to additional presents to chiefs, &c., following on the Governor's extended tour.

Post Office.—To the expenditure incurred in connection with the dies for the new denominations of stamps, which was not estimated for.

Education.—To a building grant to the Roman Catholic Mission, which was not estimated for.

Frontier Force.—To the increased field allowance to the Company during the time it was on the march through the Protectorate, to provision having to be made for a reserve of clothing in England, and to the cost of the erection of a new range during the year.

Medical Department.—To the annual increments to the salaries of the Medical Staff.

Miscellaneous Services.—To special expenditure in connection with the printing of an official handbook of the Gambia, to interest on overdrafts, to increased commission to Crown Agents owing to large purchases of material, &c., and to fees paid under the Weights and Measures Ordinance.

Public Works, Extraordinary.—To purchase of dredging plant in connection with the deepening of Kai Hai Channel, to the repairs and extension of the Government Wharf, and to extensive repairs to Government House.

Special Services.—To the purchase of a new Government steamer.

10. The principal decreases were due under:—

Government Vessels.—To the "Mansah Kilah" having to be laid up for some months of the year and the crew placed on half-pay.

Drawbacks.—To fewer claims for refund of duty on goods imported and subsequently exported.

Agriculture.—To the services of the cotton expert being dispensed with and to a decrease in the purchase of agricultural implements, and

Public Works, Recurrent.—To all expenditure on public works, except where absolutely necessary, being kept down as much as possible.

(B.) Taxation.

11. During the year the only alteration in taxation was under the Customs Tariff Ordinance, whereby the standard proof on all spirits, brandy, &c., was reduced to 12½ per cent. under proof by Sykes' hydrometer.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

12. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1905, was £28,704, or £20,723 less than at the close of 1904.

13. The surplus funds are invested in various Government securities, details of which are given hereunder:—

Statement of Investments on 31st December, 1905.

Description of Stock.	Amount of Stock.	Actual Price.	Market Value on 1st January, 1906.
General—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	5,003 18 9	5,000 0 0	4,594 18 11
Jamaica "	3,015 0 6	3,000 0 0	2,615 10 9
British Guiana "	2,056 10 0	2,000 0 0	1,804 11 8
West Australia "	6,254 4 0	5,992 9 0	5,316 1 3
Trinidad "	5,032 19 9	4,800 5 8	4,516 17 2
Natal "	4,428 9 9	4,500 0 0	4,122 8 1
Queensland "	4,376 7 2	4,584 10 0	4,003 0 3
South Australia "	7,242 8 3	7,007 11 0	6,210 7 5
Cape of Good Hope "	3,567 4 0	3,500 0 0	3,023 4 1
Victoria "	4,665 5 3	4,415 10 0	3,953 16 3
Gold Coast "	3,000 0 0	2,688 6 11	2,602 19 0
Reading Corporation "	4,000 0 0	3,807 14 7	—
Steamer Depreciation Fund—			
Grenada Inscribed Stock	211 7 6	250 0 0	210 17 0
West Australia Inscribed Stock	1,200 0 0	1,134 2 2	922 12 1
Trinidad "	500 0 0	478 15 9	Unknown
South Australia "	400 0 0	369 18 0	262 13 6
Transvaal "	1,000 0 0	991 18 6	Unknown
General	... ...	51,296 7 2	
Steamer Depreciation Fund ...	... ...	3,224 14 5	
	55,953 14 11	54,521 1 7	47,829 17 5

(D.) Public Debt.

14. The Colony has no public debt.

(E.) Currency.

Rate of Exchange.

15. The bank rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was one per cent.

Coin in Circulation.

16. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony is estimated at £150,025, made up as follows:—

	£
Bank of England Notes	500
British Gold	2,000
British Silver	45,000
French Gold	25
French Five-franc Pieces...	102,500
	£150,025

17. During the year specie to the value of £123,456 was imported, and £95,877 was exported. The details are given below:—

Description.	Imported.	Exported.
	£	£
British gold ...	2,800	4,123
„ silver ...	14,815	21,726
French gold ...	—	—
„ silver ...	105,841	70,028
Total ...	123,456	95,877

18. For 1904 the figures were as follows:—Imported, £108,719; exported, £61,994. The increase on imports may be attributed to the prospects of good trade during the season 1905-1906, and in exports to the fact that there was no need for much cash at the beginning of the year, when it was seen that the ground-nut crop for the season 1904-1905 was bad, both in quantity and quality.

(F.) Municipalities, Local Boards, &c.

19. The only Boards of this nature are the Board of Health and the McCarthy Square Board of Management. The Board of Health, which meets fortnightly, is responsible for the sanitary condition of the town of Bathurst. It consists of the Senior Medical Officer and the Colonial Engineer, who are *ex officio* members, the Superintendent of Police, a Medical Officer, and two leading members of the native community. Its revenue is derived from (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town of Bathurst at the rate of three per cent.;

(2) fees collected at the slaughter-house; and (3) a grant-in-aid from the Government. The following revenue was received under these heads during the year:—

Balance brought forward from last year ...	£24	4	6
Local Rates	611	8	0
Slaughter-house Fees	104	17	0
Government Grant-in-aid	400	0	0
Sale of Stores	1	15	0
	£1,142	4	6

The total expenditure for the same period was as follows:—

Salaries	£102	0	0
Cleaning Drains, &c.	401	4	9
Mosquito Sanitation and Miscellaneous Services	708	14	9
	£1,211	19	6

showing an excess of payments over receipts of £69 15*s.* to be carried forward to 1906.

20. Ordinarily, 20 labourers are continually employed in sweeping and scavenging the town, but for the four months of the rainy season an additional gang of ten men is employed in special connection with mosquito sanitation.

21. Three carts and horses are attached to the Board and are in constant use. During the year they removed 4,780 loads of refuse and 311 loads of tins, bottles, &c., which were utilized in filling in the swamp on the outskirts of the town.

22. During the year the Inspector of Nuisances served 91 abatement of nuisance notices, and paid 4,790 house-to-house visits, but no summonses were issued.

McCarthy Square Board.

23. During the year McCarthy Square, situated in the centre of the town and one of the features of Bathurst, was enclosed and vested by law in a Board of Management consisting of the Senior Medical Officer, the Colonial Engineer, the Superintendent of Police, and four members nominated by the Governor. The main work of the Board has so far been to level the square and to plant various shrubs, &c., round it. The square is open to the general public as a recreation ground, and games and sports of all kinds, such as polo, cricket, football, hockey, gymkhanas, races, &c., are held there. It is intended to lay down tennis and croquet courts later on. The police band also plays there once a week. So far, the Board has no revenue at its disposal and is dependent on the Government for a grant-in-aid,

but it is hoped that a certain amount of revenue will be received in the form of donations and subscriptions from the various clubs that use the ground.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS.

24. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £305,181, as against £306,149, showing a slight decrease of £968. If, however, the imports of specie, which amounted to £123,456 and is an increase of £14,737 over the imports of 1904, are deducted from the total value of the imports, it will be seen that the total of general imports, viz., £181,725, fell short of the imports of 1904 by £15,705, or a decrease of five per cent.

25. The total value of cotton goods imported during the year was £53,211, or £125 more than last year, of which £47,226 came from Great Britain, £4,343 from France, and £1,441 from Germany. As compared with 1904, the imports of this article show an increase in favour of Great Britain of £2,118 and in favour of Germany of £868, while there is a decrease of £2,630 against France.

26. There was an increase in the importation of tobacco owing to the stocks at the end of 1904 being very low, and the importations of rice show an increase in value of £452, while 65 tons less were imported.

27. The principal decrease is under kola nuts, which amounts to £4,786. The actual quantity imported, however, was 1,291 lbs. more than in the previous year. Other decreases were under sugar and salt, which may be attributed to the large stocks the merchants had on hand at the close of the 1904 season, and as regards sugar to the fact that the natives, who look upon it as a great luxury, had not the means of buying it on account of the failure of their crops. Owing to the manner in which it is made up and to cheaper freights, about 89 per cent. of the total imports of this article, which during the year was of the value of £3,965, comes from France.

28. There was also a falling off in the importation of spirits by 1,146 gallons, due partly no doubt to an increased duty of 12½ per cent. having been imposed during the year and to the fact that the number of Mohammedans is rapidly increasing in the Protectorate.

29. The value of the imports may be classified as under:—

Specific commercial imports	£75,488	0	0
Ad valorem commercial imports ...	99,865	0	0
Free commercial imports	126,568	0	0
	£301,921	0	0
Free Government imports	237	0	0
	£302,158	0	0

30. The following return gives the principal articles of import for the years 1904 and 1905, with their quantities and values:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton Goods ...	2,895	2,779	53,086	53,211	125	—
	lb.	lb.				
Tobacco	244,334	317,965	5,619	6,382	763	—
Kola nuts... ...	817,093	818,384	35,034	30,248	—	4,786
	Galls.	Galls.				
Spirits	20,551	19,405	3,867	3,562	—	305
Wine	15,117	15,340	1,770	1,999	229	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Sugar	4,822	4,009	4,663	3,965	—	698
	Tons.	Tons.				
Salt	1,678	1,337	1,215	897	—	318
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder ...	133	235	258	442	184	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Rice	54,183	52,883	22,787	23,239	452	—

31. Of the total value of imports, exclusive of specie—

48 per cent. came from Great Britain,
17 „ „ British Colonies,
24 „ „ France,
$\frac{3}{4}$ „ „ French Colonies,
$7\frac{1}{4}$ „ „ Germany,
2 „ „ America, and
1 „ „ Other Countries.

(B.) Exports.

32. The total value of exports for the year, inclusive of £95,876 on account of specie, amounted to £280,272, as compared with £311,283 in the previous year—a falling off of £31,011.

33. The total value of exports (exclusive of specie) for 1905 was £184,396, as compared with £249,289 in 1904, a decrease of £64,893 against 1905, of which £59,861 was due to the falling off in the ground-nut crop. There were other small decreases under rubber, wax, and raw cotton, while there were slight increases under palm kernels and hides.

34. The decrease in the ground-nut crop may be attributed to the drought and to the poor quality of nuts retained by the natives for seed purposes; the small quantity held by the natives was also insufficient to induce many strange farmers to remain in the Protectorate and take up land.

35. The decrease in rubber must, I am afraid, be a continuing one, as there is now scarcely any rubber in the Colony, and most of that which passes through the Gambia comes from French territory.

36. The decrease in wax is no doubt due to the recent establishment of wax kitchens at Casamance, in French territory, and to the fact that the natives who collect the wax, mostly in French ground, have to pay a tax before they are allowed to cross over into English ground.

37. The great falling off in the quantity of cotton exported was due to the fact that the natives gave up its cultivation, as the price offered for it by the merchants, viz., 1*d.* per lb., did not pay them.

38. There was a slight increase in the export of palm kernels, following an increase in 1904 on the exports of 1903, but this article cannot at present be said to take a very important place in our exports.

39. The number of hides exported was 11,723, as against 6,969 in 1904, an increase of 4,754. Their value was £2,637, as against £1,444 in the previous year, an increase of £1,193. Since 1892, when there was a severe epidemic amongst the cattle, this trade has been increasing year by year.

40. The following return shows the principal articles of export for the years 1904 and 1905:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts ...	43,436	29,499	229,287	169,426	—	59,861
	lb.	lb.				
Rubber	30,934	9,071	2,446	915	—	1,531
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels ...	179	227	1,132	1,612	480	—
	lb.	lb.				
Wax	47,491	35,828	1,888	1,444	—	444
	No.	No.				
Hides	6,969	11,723	1,444	2,637	1,193	—
	lb.	lb.				
Cotton, raw ...	59,828	2,572	1,462	60	—	1,402

40A. The destination of the ground-nuts exported was as under:—

Country.	Tonnage.	Value.
		£
Great Britain ...	623	4,633
France	24,431	138,387
Germany ...	2,015	12,127
Holland... ...	2,415	14,200
Other places ...	15	79
Total ...	29,499	169,426

41. Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, for the year 1905,

5½ per cent. went to the United Kingdom,
1¾ „ „ British Colonies,
76 „ „ France,
2½ „ „ French Colonies,
7¾ „ „ Holland,
6½ „ „ Other Countries.

42. The value of the exports for 1904 and 1905 was as under:—

Articles.	1904.	1905.
	£	£
Specie ...	61,994	95,876
Other articles	249,289	184,396
Total ...	311,283	282,272

(C.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

43. There are no mines in the Colony.

44. A few country cloths or pagns are still made, but the industry is nothing like what it used to be some years ago. These cloths, which are made from the native-grown cotton, are much appreciated by the people, and in their opinion are vastly superior to Manchester goods. A large quantity of English yarn is also imported and used by the native weavers.

45. A small amount of pottery is made in the Colony.

46. Of fish there is an abundance, and a number of Gambians as well as fishermen from French territory are engaged throughout the year in fishing. The commoner kind of fish is sun-dried, and eventually taken up the river and exchanged for corn, rice, &c. Except for the more delicate class of fish the price is very reasonable.

(D.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

47. The ground-nut is the main product of the Colony and Protectorate. During the year 29,499 tons, of the value of £169,426, were exported. The crop may be said to have been a poor one, owing partly to the failure in the rainfall, which was 38 inches as compared with the average rainfall of 51 inches, and to the poor quality and quantity of nuts which the natives kept for seed purposes. In addition to this, foodstuffs were somewhat scarce, so that "strange farmers" had little to induce them to come in and work the land. Owing to the inferior quality of the nuts, the prices obtained by the natives for them were low; many of the planters believed, however, that they could have obtained better prices but for the combine which has existed between four out of the five leading firms for some years past, under which the price to be paid for nuts is fixed at the beginning of the season. The complaints on this score are increasing every year. The perniciousness of the system is at once evident, and it is to be hoped that everything possible may be done to break it in the near future.

Cotton.

48. In 1902 the British Cottor Growing Association, strongly supported by the Government, endeavoured to push the cultivation of cotton among the natives. The experiment was continued until early in 1905, when it was decided to discontinue any further efforts in this direction, as it was found impossible to get the native to take it up if he was only to be guaranteed a penny a pound for it. Large quantities of it were planted in 1904, and but for the drought and for the plants being attacked by the bollworm a yield of about 250 lbs. to 300 lbs. the acre might have been expected, but the natives utterly refused to sell what they had to the merchants for 1*d*. a pound, as they can readily get 3*d*. a pound for it among themselves. For some years to come the yield per acre would not have been more than 300 lbs.; this at 1*d*. the pound would give the farmer £1 5*s*. On the other hand, ground-nuts would yield him on the average 60 bushels to the acre, which at 1*s*. 6*d*. the bushel—a fair average price—would give him £4 10*s*. The native is a very shrewd fellow, and naturally, as he cannot work both crops, he only gives his attention to that crop which he

knows will pay him best. The total expenditure in connection with this experiment has been £3,429. On the other side of the account, 189,492 lb. of cotton were purchased, and realised £1,579, so that the loss on the transaction has been £2,392, of which the Government share has been over £1,500.

Other Crops.

49. Many varieties of good rice are grown wherever small streams and swamp lands are to be found, but the supply is by no means equal to the demand. During the year 52,883 cwt. of the value of £23,239, were imported.

50. Large crops of millet are grown, and a fair supply of sweet potatoes, tomatoes, ochros, pumpkins, shallots, and a vegetable gourd can generally be obtained. English vegetables, such as cabbages, carrots, turnips, radishes, lettuces, and French beans can, with much watering, be grown during the cool season of the year.

51. Fruit is scarce, except as regards oranges and mangoes. The former are excellent, while the latter are of poor quality. Bananas and pawpaws can also generally be obtained, but they are not plentiful.

Timber.

52. Mahogany and rosewood trees are to be found in nearly all the districts in the Protectorate, but the trees are too much scattered to allow of a profitable export trade being established. Both these woods are used locally in the building of cutters, boats, houses, bridges, &c. Rhun palms, of which there are any quantity throughout the Colony, are used as piles in the construction of bridges and wharves and in house building.

General Value of Land.

53. Land in Bathurst required for building purposes in a good part of the town may be valued at about £200 the acre. In the native portion of the town the value is about £15 the acre, and beyond the Island of Bathurst, but in close communication with it, at about £8 to £10 the acre.

54. To encourage the establishment of factories at the various trading stations on the river, the Government has recently granted leases of land for 99 years at a rental of 1*s.* per annum for every 100 square yards. The mercantile houses have readily taken up these grants.

(E.) Shipping.

55. The total tonnage for the year was 325,236 tons, made up as follows:—

Steam vessels	...	...	...	317,473 tons
Sailing vessels	...	...	...	7,763 „
		Total	...	325,236 tons

56. As compared with the tonnage of 1904, viz., 367,560, the shipping for 1905 shows a falling off of 42,324 tons. This decrease is due to the partial failure of the ground-nut crop, which was nearly 14,000 tons less than in the previous year.

57. The following return gives in detail the total tonnage and nationality of the shipping for the years 1904 and 1905.

Nationality of Vessels.	1904.			1905.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	231,918	83	232,001	204,952	17	204,969
French	54,790	2,510	57,300	58,023	1,885	59,908
German	30,908	—	30,908	25,682	—	25,682
Russian	8,486	—	8,486	4,648	—	4,648
American	—	2,090	2,090	—	3,190	3,190
Norwegian ...	14,302	391	14,693	5,478	391	5,868
Italian	2,350	—	2,350	—	—	—
Dutch	—	—	—	6,260	—	6,260
Portuguese ...	—	2,018	2,018	—	2,280	2,280
Danish	17,614	—	17,614	10,440	—	10,440
Spanish	—	100	100	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	1,990	—	1,990
Total... ...	360,368	7,192	367,560	317,473	7,763	325,236

III.—LEGISLATION.

58. Sixteen ordinances were passed during the year. The more important were:—

No. 1—"An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to Customs Tariff." This Ordinance was framed for the purpose of facilitating trade and assisting merchants to dispose of their surplus stock, by allowing (under certain conditions) a drawback of 95 per cent. on all goods on exportation on which duties have been paid on first importation. Provision is also made for the re-exportation of goods free of duty on the payment of sundry small charges.

No. 5—"An Ordinance to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1905," which provides for the reduction of the standard of proof of spirits, in respect of which duty is paid to 12½ per cent. below proof by Sykes' Hydrometer.

No. 6—"An Ordinance to provide for the surrender of fugitive criminals." This act provides for the surrender to foreign States and their Protectorates of persons accused or convicted of the commission of certain crimes within the jurisdiction of such States and their Protectorates who have come into the Gambia Protectorate, and for the trial of persons accused of the commission of crimes in the Gambia Protectorate who have been surrendered by foreign States or their Protectorates.

No. 10—"An Ordinance to recognise Mohammedan law for certain purposes and make provision for the establishment of a Mohammedan Court at Bathurst." This Ordinance provides, among other things, that marriages between Mohammedan natives, duly contracted in accordance with Mohammedan law, shall be valid and effectual for the purpose of establishing the status of legitimacy within the Colony in favour of the children of such marriages; that there shall be a Mohammedan Court at Bathurst; that the Court shall have jurisdiction in all causes and matters between or exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments, and guardianship; that the recognition of Mohammedan law should not extend to religious practices or disabilities, save so far as such may form an essential part of the law relating to matters before-mentioned, nor to the constitution of religious trusts, nor to civil contracts other than marriage, nor to any criminal matter. Appeal from decisions given by the Cadi of the Court lie to

the Supreme Court. For this purpose a person learned in the Mohammedan law sits with the Chief Magistrate for advisory purposes.

No. 12—"An Ordinance to alter the succession to real estate and to make further provision for the administration and distribution of the estates of intestates and for other purposes." This Ordinance was framed to get rid of certain difficulties arising under a former Ordinance, which prevented to a considerable extent the effectual accomplishment of its purpose. There are several other amendments, and a particular procedure is introduced dealing with the estates of deceased European officers in the service of the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

59. There are six primary schools in the Colony, five being at Bathurst and one at McCarthy Island. They are under the management of the several religious denominations as follows:—

Anglican	One.
Roman Catholic	Two.
Wesleyan	Three.

60. The total number of children on the school rolls in Bathurst was 1,001, as compared with 1,036 in 1904, a decrease of 35. Of this total 364 children were presented for examination in the standards, of which 232 passed, showing an increase of 16 in the number presented and a decrease of 14 in the number of passes as compared with last year. Out of 109 presented in the sub-standards, 60 were successful.

61. At McCarthy Island there were 35 children on the register, of whom 20 were presented for examination and 10 passed.

62. The income of the several schools in Bathurst was as under:—

Schools.	School Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Roman Catholic ...	23 3 11	261 19 7	523 14 8	908 18 2
Wesleyan	61 6 0	76 14 11	162 2 2	300 3 0
Anglican	19 8 6	122 12 11	83 15 2	225 16 7
Total ...	103 18 5	561 7 5	769 12 0	1,434 17 9

63. The Government grant to the Roman Catholic schools includes an amount of £237 16*s.* in connection with the building of a new school and £106 for the salary of a European superintendent for a portion of the year; while the grant to the Anglican school includes a sum of £150 for a European superintendent and a grant of £15 7*s.* 4*d.* for repairs to buildings.

64. The expenditure of the schools for the year was as under:—

School.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School Material.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Roman Catholic	237 16 0	13 6 6	40 4 2	309 13 6	7 18 0	608 18 2
Wesleyan ...	—	20 5 0	3 16 0	276 2 0	—	300 3 0
Anglican ...	—	5 9 4	74 11 7	144 13 0	1 2 8	275 16 7
	237 16 0	39 0 10	118 11 9	730 8 6	9 0 8	1,134 17 9

65. It was not found possible to inspect the McCarthy Island school during the year.

Secondary Education.

66. The Wesleyan Missionary Society is the only body which has a secondary school for boys in the Colony. The number on the register is 17, while the average attendance is 14. The school fees amounted to £24 9*s.* 6*d.*, and voluntary contributions to £23 17*s.*, making a total revenue of £48 6*s.* 8*d.*, the expenditure being the same.

Technical School.

67. This school is under the management of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and is of an undenominational character. The school at present has 24 boys on its register, of whom 14 are receiving instruction in cabinetmaking and joinery, four are being taught bricklaying and masonry, four blacksmithery, and two painting. In addition to their practical teaching, the boys also receive instruction in mensuration, scale drawing, freehand drawing, and geometry. Those pupils who have not yet passed the fifth standard also receive instruction every day in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school is under a European instructor, and receives a grant-in-aid from the Government of £300 a year. At the last annual exhibition the work done by the boys showed a great improvement on that turned out in previous years.

Mohammedan School.

68. This school, which was established in 1903, continues to make satisfactory progress. The total number of children on its

register is 116, the average attendance being 78, both figures showing an increase on those of 1904. Arabic is taught on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays, while English and arithmetic are taught on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Many of the chiefs in the Protectorate have been induced to send their children to it, and, once being assured that no attempt will be made to convert them into the "trouser-man" or Christian, are anxious for them to come and learn English. One chief has no son, but, not to be outdone, sent his daughter to be taught at one of the Christian schools, but lately he has asked that she might be sent to the Mohammedan school. The children of the chiefs while in Bathurst are maintained and educated at the cost of the Government. The school is not under the Education Board, but is managed by a committee consisting of the Governor as chairman and several leading Mohammedans as members.

69. The expenditure incurred by the Government on account of education during the year, exclusive of the salary of the Inspector of Schools, amounted to £1,324, made up as follows:—

Contribution to Salaries of European Superintendents	£256	0	0
Contribution to Salaries of Teachers in Mohammedan schools	118	0	0
Grants-in-aid of Schools	398	0	0
Grant to Wesleyan Industrial School ...	300	0	0
Grant-in-aid to School Buildings, &c. ...	252	0	0
	£1,324	0	0

70. The total number of children on the school rolls in Bathurst was as under:—

Roman Catholic Schools	395
Wesleyan Schools	453
Anglican School	153
Mohammedan School	116
Technical School	24
Grand Total ...	1,141

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

71. There are two hospitals in the Colony, a general hospital consisting of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class wards for men and an operating room, with an adjoining bungalow for women, and an adjoining shed which was formerly the female ward but is now used for incurable cases, and a contagious diseases hospital —a large hut of two compartments built of thatch and bamboo.

72. During the past few years many alterations and improvements have been made in the general hospital, and both the men's and women's departments will compare favourably with other similar institutions in West Africa. The accommodation in these wards is as follows:—

First Class Ward—Men	4
Second Class Ward—Men	10
Third Class Ward—Men	24
Female Ward	12
Total number of Beds ...	50

73. The total number of patients admitted into the hospital during the year was 606, or 60 less than during 1904.

73A. There was one case of cancer admitted to the hospital. The patient only remained about a month and then left for Sierra Leone, where she died a month later. This is the only case of cancer to be found in the records of the Medical Department.

74. The following table shows the number of patients in the hospital during the year:—

Patients in Hospital.

—	Remaining in hospital 31st December, 1904.	Admitted during the year	Died.	Remaining in hospital 31st December, 1905.
Europeans	--	17	2	—
Natives	16	436	27	18
Civil Police	1	45	2	2
Syrians	--	29	2	—
W.A.F.F.	7	79	1	4
Total	24	606	34	24

75. The 34 deaths in the hospital were due to the following diseases:—

Diseases.	Deaths.	Diseases.	Deaths.
Beriberi	1	Malignant fever with hyperpyrexia.	1
Blackwater fever... ...	1	Meningitis	2
Bronchial asthma ...	1	Marasmus...	1
Broncho-pneumonia ...	1	Phthisis	1
Burn	1	Phagedaena	1
Acute gastritis	1	Inanition	1
Chronic pyaemia	1	Pneumonia	1
Chronic peritonitis ...	1	Rheumatic fever ...	1
Cardiac disease	1	Sleeping sickness... ...	2
Chronic bronchitis ...	1	Senile decay	2
Cerebral congestion ...	1	Starvation	2
Dysentery...	1	Tetanus	2
Debility	2	Renal disease	1
Hospital gangrene ...	1	Acute bronchitis	1

76. The number of out-patients treated during the year was 10,140, made up as follows:—Old cases, 5,905; new cases, 4,235. This number shows an increase of 26 when compared with the figures of the previous year.

77. The following were the prevailing diseases:—

Intermittent fever	Febricula
Remittent fever	Rheumatism
Conjunctivitis	Bronchitis
Catarrh	Pneumonia
Dyspepsia	Diarrhœa
Orchitis	Abscess
Oedema	Ulcers
Whitlow	Boils

78. Of the rarer diseases met with there were—

Guinea worm	Leprosy
Syphilis	Beriberi
Sleeping sickness	Tetanus
Gout	

79. Of a European population of 114, there were 43 cases treated. There were two deaths, and one case of invaliding for anaemia following fever. There were also 22 cases of malarial fever. The diseases suffered from were biliousness, cellulitis, pleurisy, febricula, and remittent fever.

80. In taking the European population at 114, it must be borne in mind that during the rainy season—July to October—this number is reduced by quite half owing to officials, merchants and others proceeding to Europe.

81. There was no serious illness among the European officials, who numbered 35.

82. Among the native officials there were 43 cases of illness; of these three ended fatally, two being in the police and one in the West African Frontier Force. The prevailing diseases were intermittent fever, febricula, rheumatism, dyspepsia, and catarrh.

83. Vaccination was carried out throughout the year, and of 987 persons vaccinated 968 were successful. This satisfactory result is to be attributed to the vaccine lymph obtained from the Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology.

84. There are no asylums in the Colony. Lunatics are generally sent to the asylum at Sierra Leone to be cared for.

85. The agreement under which three nursing sisters from the Society of St. Joseph de Cluny, in Paris, were engaged terminated at the end of the year. The experiment of having European nurses in charge of the hospital has proved so very satisfactory that arrangements have been made with the society for retaining the services of the sisters for a further term of three years.

86. The receipts under the Medical Department were as follows:—

Maintenance of sick and sale of medicines	£82	0	0
The expenditure was as follows:—			
Salaries and allowances, &c.	£2,961	0	0
Maintenance of sick and purchase of medicines, &c.	959	0	0
Total ...	£3,920	0	0

(B.) Savings Bank.

87. There is only one savings bank in the Colony, which is under the management of the Treasurer. The total amount remaining on deposit at the close of the year was £4,815, as compared with £5,382 at the close of the previous year.

88. The amount deposited during the year was £1,198, while the sum withdrawn amounted to £1,557. The interest allowed on deposits at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum amounted to £119.

89. The number of depositors was 430, as compared with 378 in 1904.

90. There are 35 Friendly Societies registered in the Colony; these had a sum of £701 standing to their credit at the close of the year. The object of these societies is to render assistance to their members in time of sickness and death, and in their several ways they are of much benefit.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

91. The police force consists of a superintendent, assistant superintendent, both being Europeans, and 80 non-commissioned officers and men. Sixty-eight of these men are stationed at Bathurst, while the remainder are distributed about the Protectorate and are under the orders of the Commissioners of the districts.

92. In addition to their ordinary police duties they are instructed in company drill, including rifle and firing exercise weekly, and may be regarded as a semi-military force. The men also have charge of a 30-man Merryweather manual fire engine, with which they drill weekly.

93. The men are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines, and have three seven-pounder R.M.L. guns.

94. The force has a good band, which has been trained by a European bandmaster.

95. The value of property reported to the police during the year as stolen was £126, of which £70 was recovered.

96. The discipline of the force during the year was good.

97. The expenditure on account of the force during the year was as under:—

Salaries, &c.	£3,639	0	0
Clothing and equipment	224	0	0
Waterproof coats	31	0	0
Sundries	78	0	0
Forage allowance	52	0	0
Passages	56	0	0
	£4,080	0	0

(B.) Prisons.

98. The only prison in the Colony is at Bathurst. It has accommodation for 31 male and five female prisoners.

99. The building is an old one, but is kept in excellent order and at present answers all requirements very satisfactorily. In the men's prison there are 15 separate cells and four associated wards, while on the women's side there are two associated wards and one separate cell. As far as it is possible, the prisoners are kept in separate cells.

100. The number of prisoners in gaol on the 1st January, 1905, was 14, the number admitted during the year was 77, making a total of 91. Of these 70 were discharged at the expiration of their sentence, two were discharged before the expiration of their sentence, six died, and 13 remained in gaol at the end of the year.

101. The six deaths were due to the following diseases:—Beriberi,1; nephritis, 1; syncope, owing to chronic liver and spleen disease, 1; chronic bronchitis, 1; heart disease, 1; and dropsy, 1. A coroner's inquest was held on all the prisoners who died.

102. The daily average number of prisoners was 19·39, as compared with 21·35 in 1904.

103. The prisoners were employed during the year in breaking stones, clearing Government compounds, and cleaning, cementing, and white-washing the prison buildings. The value of the work was estimated at £147, while the expenditure on account of the staff and maintenance amounted to £703.

104. There were 15 offences committed in the prison, as compared with nine in the previous year. One was attempting to escape while working outside the gaol; the other offences were of a minor character.

105. No corporal punishment was inflicted during the year.

106. There is a chaplain attached to the prison, who in addition to holding divine service every Sunday visits the prisoners periodically. The clergy of the various denominations are also allowed to visit prisoners who may belong to their community.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

107. During the year the number of cases brought before the Police Court was 166, as against 193 in 1904. They were dealt with as follows:—

Acquitted	38
Dismissed on merits	20
Convicted	96
Committed to the Supreme Court ...	12
	166

108. Of the 12 cases tried in the Supreme Court one was for rape, two were for offences against the person, two were for larceny, and two were for other offences. Five cases were thrown out. One of these was a case of murder, and another was a case of attempted murder. Both accused were in bad health, and died while awaiting trial.

109. There were 193 cases disposed of by the Summary Courts in the Protectorate during the year, as against 156 cases in 1904.

The offences were as follows:—

Offences against the person	66
Larceny	18
Offences against property	1
Trading without licence	5
Special offences under the Protectorate Ordinance	79
Other offences	24
Total ...	193

110. A good many of the cases were of a trivial nature, such as abusive language and petty assaults, which would be dealt with very leniently in police courts in England.

111. Out of the total number of cases 174 were dealt with by fines, 10 were dismissed or otherwise dealt with, eight were sentenced to imprisonment, and one was sent to the Supreme Court.

112. On the whole, the Head Chiefs and other members of the native tribunals may be said to do their work very conscientiously. There is rather a tendency to impose the maximum penalties, but this is gradually being corrected.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

113. The population, according to the census taken in 1901, was 90,404 for the Colony and Protectorate. A more recent estimate and in all probability a more correct one places the population of the Colony at 8,807 and of the Protectorate at 154,911, or a total of 163,718 persons.

114. The area of the Colony is estimated at four square miles and the Protectorate at about 3,700 square miles. This gives a population of a little over 44 to the square mile.

115. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 271, or 43 less than last year. Taking the population at 8,807, according to the last census, this gives a birth rate of 30·7 per 1,000.

116. The birth of one European in the Colony must be recorded.

117. The deaths registered in Bathurst were 299, or 32 less than reported last year. This represents a death rate of 33·9 per 1,000.

118. There were 14 marriages registered during the year.

119. At present no reliable returns are obtainable in regard to the births and deaths which take place in the Protectorate, as the chiefs and people view anything in the form of registration with great suspicion, looking upon it as regards themselves as the thin edge of the wedge for the introduction of a poll tax, and as regards their cattle as an intention on the part of the Government to levy a tax on them. It is hoped, however, that by constant and careful explanation the chiefs and headmen may be induced to keep such a record as will at least enable an approximate estimate to be formed as to the births and deaths in their districts.

(B.) Public Health.

120. The general health of the Colony during the year was good. There was no epidemic disease, and the death rate was lower than last year.

121. The health in the Protectorate was also good. The people, although perhaps slowly, are gradually allowing their children to be vaccinated by the Commissioners and Protectorate Medical Officer, who experience less difficulty in getting the children to come to them.

122. There was a slight outbreak of yellow fever in the neighbouring French Colony of Senegal, but fortunately it did not extend to the Gambia.

(C.) Sanitation.

123. The town of Bathurst was kept in a good sanitary condition under the direction of the Board of Health. Several additional pumps of a French pattern have been erected about the town, and other sanitary improvements have been made.

124. In the Protectorate no opportunity is lost in opening up the streets and making the people build their houses in line. No town is now built without the site having been first marked out by the Commissioners. Rubbish and all insanitary matter is taken outside the towns and burnt, while the wells are so constructed as to prevent the dirty surface water from running into them. These and other improvements are being gradually brought about, so that the most thoughtful among the natives are beginning to realise that there is something after all that is good in the "white man's fashion."

(D.) Climate.

125. For about seven months of the year—November to May—the climate of the Gambia may be said to be less unpleasant than other places on the West Coast of Africa; during the rainy season—July to October—it is quite as trying and depressing as other places.

126. In the dry season the thermometer sometimes registers as low as 56° in the morning, rising during the day to as high as 96° or 100°. These great variations cause it to be very trying. In the wet season, the temperature varies from about 70° to 92°.

127. The rainfall during the year amounted to 66 inches, which was 15 inches above the average. Of the total rainfall, the month of August was responsible for 25·71 inches.

128. The following is the meteorological return for the year:—

Months.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ..	158	—	91	57	34	73·8	—	—	N.W.		
February..	160	—	93	58	35	74·9	·18	—	Do.		
March ..	164	—	98	59	39	75·5	·09	—	Do.		
April ..	162	—	93	59	34	73·5	—	—	Do.		
May ..	158	—	93	60	33	74·0	—	—	Do.		
June ..	158	—	91	67	24	78·0	4·29	—	Variable.		
July ..	155	—	90	66	24	78·7	16·38	—	Do.	Not observed.	
August ..	159	—	92	69	23	79·1	25·71	—	Do.		
September	159	—	92	70	22	81·2	12·42	—	Do.		
October ..	162	—	93	72	21	81·6	6·32	—	Do.		
November	160	—	94	68	26	79·7	·08	—	E.		
December	162	—	95	63	32	78·2	—	—	E.		
	1,917	—	1,115	768	347	928·2	66·07	—	—		
Monthly average.	159·7	—	92·9	64	28·9	77·3	8·2	—	—		

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

129. There is a fortnightly service of mail steamers belonging to the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company between Bathurst and Liverpool. Communication is also held with other places on the West Coast by this means. Monthly steamers of these lines as well as of Messrs. Woermann, of Hamburg, call here when inducement offers.

130. It is gratifying to be able to record that of late years there has been a great improvement in the steamers which run from Liverpool, as regards the steamers themselves and the accommodation they offer; but the catering continues to be a cause of general complaint, and it is really time that some improvement was made in this direction.

131. On the inland waters, in addition to the Government yacht and several tugs belonging to the merchants, there is a fleet of cutters continually going from Bathurst to McCarthy Island and to Yarbutenda, which is 250 miles from Bathurst. In the ground-nut season steamers drawing 10 to 12 feet can easily load their cargoes at McCarthy Island, which is 150 miles up the river.

Post Office.

132. The revenue of the Post Office for the year was £2,731, as compared with £596 in 1904. This extraordinary increase can only be attributed to the new denominations of stamps issued, and to the change in the water mark of many of the dies.

133. The expenditure for the same period amounted to £808, as compared with £671 in 1904, due to an increase of £20 a year which the Colony has to pay for sea and territorial services and to amounts on account of 1904 having been paid in 1905.

134. The value of the money orders issued during the year was £1,453, as compared with £1,491 in 1904, while the value of money orders paid was £1,078, as compared with £293 in 1904. Since the establishment of a branch of the Bank of British West Africa at Bathurst, the number of money orders issued has shown a considerable decrease. This is due to the fact that the kola nut dealers, who do a large business with Sierra Leone, prefer to transact it through the bank, which charges a smaller rate of commission than they would have to pay on money orders. The fact, that, should the first bill of exchange go astray, he has the second bill of exchange in his possession, is also probably not without its importance with the trader.

135. The increase of the maximum from £10 to £40, for which a post office order can be obtained, came into force during the year.

136. The postal order system between the United Kingdom and the Colonies, which came into force during 1904, has been much appreciated by the public. The amount of the orders issued during 1905 was £833, as compared with £141 in 1904, and the amount of orders paid during the same period was £219, as compared with £8.

137. The total number of letters, post cards, &c., dealt with during the year was 91,678, as compared with 94,358 in 1904, a falling off of 2,680. The number of parcels dealt with was 1,554, as compared with 1,677 in the previous year.

138. During the year a branch post office was opened at McCarthy Island, and has been a great convenience to the people there.

Telegraphs.

139. There is no inland telegraph in the Colony, but Bathurst is in communication with Europe, viâ St. Vincent (Cape Verde); and with the other West African Colonies by the cable of the African Direct Telegraph Company, which has received a subsidy of £500 a year since 1886 from the Colonial Government. The agreement under which the subsidy is paid expires in 1906.

Telephones.

140. A Government telephone system exists, and all the principal departments are connected with it.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

141. The only purely military force in the Colony is a company of the West African Frontier Force, and consists of one captain (commanding), two lieutenants, two European non-commissioned officers, and 126 native non-commissioned officers and men, composed partly of men from Sierra Leone and partly from tribes neighbouring to the Gambia.

142. The company, like the police force already alluded to, is armed with the Martini-Enfield, and also has two 6-pounder Hotchkiss guns and a Maxim gun.

143. During the early part of the year the company was on escort duty with the Governor on his tour through the Protectorate. For the four months they were on the march the behaviour of the men was very satisfactory.

144. When the company is at headquarters about half of the men are allowed to have houses in the town, while the other half are in barracks. It has, however, been decided to erect lines

for the men at a cost of £1,728. The work has been commenced, and is likely to be completed in the first half of 1906.

145. A new rifle range, with all the latest improvements, was erected at Cape St. Mary, which is eight miles from Bathurst, during the year, at a cost of £220. The men usually camp there for three or four months of the year for their musketry course, &c.

146. The cost of the force for the year under review was £6,091.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

147. Early in the year the Governor made a tour in the Protectorate, which lasted over four months. All large towns were visited, and at the town of each chief a general meeting, which was attended by all the neighbouring headmen, was held. On these occasions the questions of education, vaccination, sanitation, &c. were discussed, and any grievances were inquired into; the latter, however, generally proved to be of a very minor character. His Excellency was accompanied by an escort consisting of the company of the West African Frontier Force stationed in the Colony. During the whole of the time they were absent from headquarters, the conduct of the men was very satisfactory.

148. During the year the work commenced in 1904 of replacing by masonry pillars the boundary marks fixed by the Anglo-French Commissioners of 1891, 1895, and 1899 was completed. About 248 pillars were fixed, and the expenditure incurred by the Colony in connection with it amounted to £1,800.

149. The only important works undertaken and completed within the year by the Public Works Department were the alterations to Government House and the Senior Medical Officer's quarters. A fine rifle range was also erected at Cape St. Mary for the use of the company of the West African Frontier Force.

150. Owing to the dilapidated condition of the Government wharf, which was built in 1893, Messrs. Coode, Son, & Matthews were requested to report on it. That firm recommended that the old portion of the wharf should be strengthened and extended beyond the sand bank which had formed. The work, which was commenced towards the close of the year, is expected to be completed during 1906. The estimated cost of it is £13,000.

151. The question of deepening Kai Hai Channel was also decided during the year. This channel, which is about 120 yards wide, is 140 miles from Bathurst. Formerly vessels drawing from 15 feet to 16 feet of water could pass through it, but

within recent years it has silted up to such an extent that only vessels of 12 feet draught can cross it at the top of high water. Various proposals were made for creating a greater scour in the channel, but nothing was actually done until Messrs. Coode, Son, & Matthews sent out an expert to report on the matter. The result of his report was that the firm recommended the dredging of the channel. The necessary parts of the dredger were sent out during the year, and the work of putting it together is proceeding and will be completed in sufficient time for work to be commenced towards the end of 1906. The estimated cost of the dredging plant is placed at £6,050, while the cost of clearing the channel is estimated at £11,882. This work when completed will result in shippers saving quite half a crown a ton freight on produce shipped from ports situated above Kai Hai.

152. During the year the medical superintendent of Messrs. Elder, Dempster, & Co. reported that while handling a consignment of hides from Bathurst a man at the Liverpool docks was infected with anthrax, and stated that he suspected the disease existed in this Colony. It was suggested that a veterinary surgeon should be sent out to report on this subject, as well as on the many diseases from which the horses and cattle suffer in this country. The suggestion was approved, and at the time of writing an officer of the Army Veterinary Department is in the Colony making his investigations.

153. Owing to various complaints received from the agent of the shipping companies that steamers were unnecessarily delayed at this port, a commission was appointed to enquire into the matter, and reported that the delay complained of was not, in their opinion, caused by the arrangements made by the Customs authorities. It suggested that the area of the Customs shed might be enclosed, and arrangements made for the better lighting of the wharf at night. These proposals have been approved, and will be carried out as soon as the work on the wharf has been completed.

154. A couple of years ago mention was made in a similar report as to the nature of sport to be obtained here. In view of the fact that in June last a couple of young sportsmen arrived in the Colony with the intention of going up country on a shooting expedition, it seems necessary again to impress upon travellers that the best months for shooting are from February to May. After May, the rains commence and the time of year is unhealthy, and all European officials and traders are withdrawn to headquarters. The above sportsmen, although warned, insisted on going up river; they soon afterwards returned to Bathurst with malarial fever, the only result of their expedition. One of them was invalided to England, while his more unfortunate companion proceeded further down the coast to join a native regiment to which he had been seconded.

155. While a fair amount of sport can be obtained, the Gambia is no place for sportsmen in search of big game. Small game, such as bush fowl, guinea fowl, quail, black and green pigeon, and sand grouse, are fairly plentiful. As to larger game, there are several kinds of deer, and bush cow and wild boar are to be found. Lions are sometimes to be met with, and there are a good many leopards; there are also hippopotami in the Upper River, and a wily crocodile is never far off. As there are no hotels in the Colony, and as it is very difficult at times to secure any decent accommodation for love or money, intending visitors to the Gambia should take care to arm themselves with letters of introduction to some resident at Bathurst.

156. Owing to the failure of the crops and to the poor quality of the ground-nuts it became necessary for the Government and merchants to issue to the natives during the year 450 tons of nuts for seed purposes. The Government also issued a large quantity of rice to help the natives through the rainy season, a period when their own foodstuffs are very scarce. But for this timely assistance, not only would the ground-nut crop for the present season have been more or less a failure, but there would have been a great deal of suffering and starvation among the people. At the time of writing I am able to say that the amounts paid for the rice and seed were refunded as soon as the people had reaped and sold their produce.

157. During the year Mr. H. C. Goddard, owing to his retirement from the Colony, resigned his seat on the Legislative Council, of which he had been a member for many years, and Mr. A. L. Bennett was appointed in his place. There were various temporary changes in the establishments owing to officers proceeding on leave, but these it is unnecessary to record here.

158. Notwithstanding the short crops and the low prices received for their produce, the condition of the people for the year under review may be said to have been satisfactory. For the coming year the prospects of the Colony are very hopeful.

H. M. Brandford Griffith,

Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia.
6th June, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	"
465	Gold Coast	"
466	Barbados	1904–1905
467	Uganda Protectorate	"
468	Somaliland Protectorate...	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	"
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa	"
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"
486	St. Helena...	"
487	Weihaiwei...	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles...	"
490	Falklands...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon...	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. Do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

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1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 536.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 491.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1907.

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1907.

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No. 536.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 491.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Bathurst, Gambia.

24th July, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Blue Book of the Gambia for the year 1906.

2. The following is my Report on it.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

3. The revenue for the year was £65,430. The figures given below shew that it exceeded that of any other year by £9,866.

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1895	20,560	1901	43,725
1896	26,171	1902	51,015
1897	39,414	1903	55,564
1898	46,717	1904	54,179
1899	46,839	1905	51,868
1900	49,160	1906	65,430

4. The increase may be ascribed to various reasons, but the principal factor was, undoubtedly, the high price paid for the groundnuts exported during the year. Though the quantity was not so large as in 1903 and 1904, the amount received by the producer was fully 50 per cent. more than in those years. Another cause is to be found in the fact that there was a very considerable distribution of groundnut seed in 1906, amounting to 701 tons, and that, in anticipation of a very large export of nuts in 1907, the merchants imported an unusually large supply of goods.

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5. The following table shews the heads of revenue under which the principal increases will be found, and gives the increase in each case, and there is also a table shewing the amounts collected under each head for the past four years:—

——	1905.			1906.			Increase.		
Customs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ad Valorem	4,593	5	11	6,755	17	3	2,162	11	4
Import duty on Wine ...	798	4	6	1,076	5	5	278	4	6
Import duty on Spirits ...	3,877	12	0	9,842	8	0	5,964	16	0
Import duty on Sugar ...	1,861	13	11	2,844	19	11	983	6	0
Import duty on Kola Nuts ...	6,820	4	9	9,812	6	10	2,992	2	1
Import duty on Rice... ...	1,345	12	0	3,041	7	0	1,695	15	0
Export duty on Goundnuts...	9,832	18	9	12,016	14	1	2,183	15	4
Licences, Excise, etc.									
Spirit Licences	1,276	0	0	1,484	0	0	208	0	0

Amounts Collected for the past Four Years.

——	1903.			1904.			1905.			1906.		
Customs.												
Ad Valorem	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duty on Wine ...	5,317	10	9	5,370	11	7	4,593	5	11	6,755	17	3
Import duty on Spirits ...	921	9	1	811	17	8	798	4	6	1,076	5	5
Import duty on Sugar ...	4,339	19	8	4,113	6	0	3,877	12	0	9,842	8	0
Import duty on Kola Nuts ..	2,586	11	4	2,251	2	0	1,861	13	11	2,844	19	11
Import duty on Rice ...	6,746	11	4	6,808	15	10	6,820	4	9	9,812	6	10
Export duty on Groundnuts	1,259	16	8	1,343	7	8	1,345	12	0	3,041	7	0
	15,158	4	2	14,478	19	6	9,832	18	9	12,016	14	1
Licenses, Excise, etc.												
Spirit Licences	824	0	0	1,046	0	0	1,276	0	0	1,484	0	0

Expenditure.

6. The expenditure for the year was £56,899, as against an estimate of £57,502, and was £8,531 below the revenue.

7. The following table gives the expenditure for the past twelve years:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1895	28,867	1901	48,518
1896	25,300	1902	51,534
1897	27,058	1903	67,504
1898	29,035	1904	52,300
1899	30,404	1905	72,297
1900	29,817	1906	56,988

8. In explanation of the heavy expenditure in 1903 and 1905, I may mention that in the first-named year a charge from the War Office of £10,153 in connection with the expedition of 1901 was brought to account, whilst in the latter the purchase of dredging plant is responsible for £4,483, and the strengthening and extension of the jetty for £6,459. Again, in 1905, under "Other Charges," the cost of a new steamer—amounting to £7,271—will be found.

9. The following table gives the amount expended under the different votes for the past four years:—

Vote.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions	730 11 4	1,002 14 9	1,044 10 9	917 0 11
The Governor	2,895 14 9	3,466 4 10	3,922 14 3	3,446 18 0
The Colonial Secretary	1,167 5 5	1,191 6 6	1,202 1 5	1,155 19 6
The Protectorate	5,779 3 8	5,149 10 10	7,852 11 8	5,885 4 0
Printing Department	621 10 7	372 8 1	294 18 8	297 3 4
Treasury	1,010 18 2	1,109 6 4	1,163 12 9	1,043 5 10
Customs Department	1,927 1 3	2,086 12 0	2,076 17 0	2,159 8 5
Post Office	620 5 10	671 0 9	808 4 9	712 15 10
Audit Department	504 12 9	577 0 11	596 0 7	478 18 1
Judicial Department	1,224 18 9	1,252 12 6	1,242 15 11	1,341 14 0
Attorney-General	512 6 9	499 1 7	470 4 9	456 8 6
Frontier Force	5,744 9 0	5,388 3 7	6,090 12 9	5,543 7 7
Police	4,323 13 2	4,105 18 2	4,079 3 3	3,927 0 0
Prisons	766 7 1	726 6 0	702 15 4	693 8 5
Medical Department	2,200 18 0	2,851 2 11	2,980 18 4	3,139 13 7
Hospitals and Dispensaries	818 0 11	917 15 10	959 8 8	1,104 0 11
Government Vessels	2,272 3 1	2,355 4 1	1,980 8 9	2,802 16 11
Charitable Allowances	90 19 0	101 9 4	101 7 11	107 12 0
Education	848 18 6	1,123 0 11	1,325 12 7	739 14 0
Transport	897 8 9	272 9 4	334 2 3	394 4 10
Miscellaneous Services	2,501 3 2	2,388 6 0	3,161 0 0	3,617 18 1
Drawback	32 15 7	309 14 6	79 9 7	152 11 0
Agriculture	566 15 8	738 16 10	391 12 11	336 10 5
Colonial Engineer's Department	1,531 17 11	1,651 5 6	1,700 3 2	1,716 9 7
Public Works—Recurrent	5,223 10 6	4,790 3 2	4,001 15 4	3,758 12 10
Public Works—Extraordinary	11,710 2 5	4,858 11 1	16,074 5 4	7,738 13 0
Special Services	11,002 7 11	2,364 6 5	7,654 18 3	3,190 11 7

(B.) Taxation.

10. By Ordinance No. 1 of 1906 the duty on kola nuts was increased from twopence to threepence per pound, and that on unmanufactured tobacco from threepence to fourpence per pound. There were no other changes in the incidence of taxation during the year.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

11. The credit balance carried forward on the 31st December, 1905, was £28,704 4*s.* 4*d.* On the 31st December, 1906, it had risen to £34,582 17*s.* 11*d.* During the year securities standing in the Colonial Books as worth £25,969 were sold, and only realised £23,505; there was, therefore, a loss on this transaction of £2,464.

12. The Colony at the end of the year had a credit balance of £1,056 with the Crown Agents.

(D.) Public Debt.

13. The Colony has no public debt.

(E.) Currency.

14. As has been previously reported, the currency of the Colony is British sterling and the French five-franc piece. English and French gold are also legal tenders, but are little used.

15. Below is a return showing the amount and denomination of the different moneys paid into the Bank of British West Africa by the Government:—

Statement showing Moneys Paid into the Bank of British West Africa by Government Departments during 1904, 1905, *and* 1906.

Year.	Bank Notes.	English Gold.	French Gold.	Five-franc pieces.	Cheques.	Other English Coins.	Total.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1904..	—	7,416 0 0	5 15 6	8,263 8 9	16,534 8 5	21,107 13 4	53,327 6 0
1905..	—	3,882 0 0	11 17 6	4,408 13 6	17,821 17 6	23,574 2 9	49,698 11 3
1906..	—	699 0 0	2 7 6	5,379 7 11	64,730 8 1	46,127 17 2	116,938 19 9
Total	—	11,997 0 0	20 0 6	18,051 9 3	99,086 14 0	90,809 13 3	219,964 17 0

16. It is interesting to note the manner in which the circulation of British sterling is increasing, and in this connection the subjoined table, shewing the import of five-franc pieces and British silver into the Colony for the past six years, is worthy of notice:—

Period.	Imports.		
	British silver.	French dollars.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1901...	10,329 0 0	39,977 0 0	50,306 0 0
1902...	21,269 0 0	80,519 0 0	101,788 0 0
1903...	26,035 0 0	91,278 0 0	117,313 0 0
1904...	31,252 0 0	65,638 0 0	96,890 0 0
1905...	11,810 0 0	108,667 0 0	120,477 0 0
1906...	53,000 0 0	111,465 0 0	164,465 0 0

17. The five-franc piece is accepted at the Treasury at 3*s.* 10½*d.*

18. The rate of exchange for bills on London was 1 per cent. for the year, and it is estimated that the circulation of all kinds of coin during 1906 amounted to £226,000.

(F.) Comparative Statement of the Total Revenue and Expenditure of any Municipality or Public Board.

Board of Health.

19. The following returns give the revenue and expenditure of the Board of Health for the past five years:—

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of the Board of Health from 1902 to 1906.

Heads of Revenue.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance	—	336 2 9	51 9 3	19 11 0	—
„ Local Rates	594 12 0	543 9 0	581 0 6	611 8 0	615 2 11
„ Slaughter-house Fees	93 18 0	95 17 9	102 1 0	104 17 3	108 12 2
„ Sale of Stores	1 1 9	—	—	0 11 0	—
„ Excess of Expenditure	299 3 11	—	495 11 0	1,015 1 5	960 3 1
„ Grant-in-Aid	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	500 0 0	400 0 0	500 0 0
„ Departmental Fines..	—	—	0 10 2	0 10 0	0 6 7
Total	1,943 15 8	1,375 9 6	1,730 11 11	2,151 18 8	2,184 4 9

Heads of Expenditure.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Excess of Payment ..	346 6 9	—	495 11 0	939 19 3	1,035 5 3
„ Salaries	87 4 3	99 4 5	102 0 0	102 0 0	101 16 8
„ Horses and Carts ..	113 6 0	84 10 10	147 10 3	94 6 3	85 18 3
„ Street Lights ..	156 15 6	156 0 2	166 13 2	179 19 3	160 11 0
„ Cleaning Drains ..	646 16 1	628 2 10	457 6 9	401 4 9	413 9 6
„ Cleaning Latrines ..	72 0 0	72 0 0	72 0 0	72 0 0	72 0 0
„ Sluice Gate Keepers..	50 3 9	49 19 6	42 12 9	50 3 9	54 9 9
„ Commission on Collection of Slaughter-House Fees.	9 7 10	9 11 9	21 19 4	10 9 9	10 17 4
„ Miscellaneous	109 2 9	36 4 5	10 14 2	13 15 11	59 11 10
„ Extraordinary Expenditure.	—	186 16 4	192 4 6	286 9 9	166 13 10
„ Copying Rating List..	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0
„ Gratuities	15 0 0	—	—	—	—
„ Upkeep, Slaughter-House.	—	—	0 19 6	—	—
Total	1,807 12 11	1,324 0 3	1,711 0 11	2,151 18 8	2,162 3 5

McCarthy Square Board.

20. 1906 was the first year in which this Square was under separate management. The revenue for the period consisted of a grant of £240 from the Government, and a sum of £83 2*s.* 4*d.*, which was carried forward from 1905, giving a total of £323 2*s.* 4*d.* The expenditure for the twelve months, including a sum of £44 paid for garden seats, amounted to £156 5*s.* 6*d.* A balance of £166 16*s.* 10*d.* was, therefore, brought forward to the 1907 account, no grant from the Government being asked for that year.

(G.) Debts of Municipalities and Boards.

21. Neither the Board of Health nor the McCarthy Square Board has any debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports.

22. The total value of the imports for 1906 was £447,656, but of this £167,167 was for specie, which leaves a balance of £280,489 as the value of general imports. In 1905 the general imports amounted to £181,725; there was an increase, therefore, of £98,764 in 1906 in this respect.

23. The return given below shews the increase or decrease in the principal articles of import during the year:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton Goods ...	2,779	3,895	53,212	89,688	36,476	—
	lb.	lb.				
Tobacco	317,965	223,054	6,382	5,650	—	732
Kola nuts... ...	818,384	864,034	30,248	29,586	—	662
	Galls.	Galls.				
Spirits	19,405	47,316	3,562	6,974	3,412	—
Wine	15,340	20,183	1,999	2,115	116	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Sugar	4,009	5,953	3,965	5,229	1,264	—
	Tons.	Tons.				
Salt	1,337	1,053	897	642	—	255
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder ...	235	313	442	669	227	—
	Cwt.	Cwt.				
Rice	52,883	121,359	23,239	52,427	29,188	—

24. Of cotton goods a large stock remains on hand. Although the import was so very large in 1906, only one firm had a full supply of spirits for the coming season, and rice was completely used up during the year, the import for 1907 being, at the present date, much larger for the same period than in any previous year.

25. From the figures given below, it will be seen that the imports were larger in 1906 than in any previous year:—

Imports.

Years.	Total Imports exclusive of Specie.	Imports of Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£
1895	83,967	13,432	97,399
1896	91,062	19,262	110,324
1897	139,812	36,515	176,327
1898	187,062	59,030	246,092
1899	171,572	69,335	240,907
1900	194,408	85,251	277,659
1901	185,095	67,552	252,647
1902	188,239	115,376	303,615
1903	214,790	126,273	341,063
1904	197,430	108,719	306,149
1905	181,725	123,456	305,181
1906	280,489	167,168	447,657

(B.) Exports.

26. The total value of the exports in 1906 amounted to £428,676, and in this is included a sum of £129,425 for specie; the general exports, therefore, were £299,250, as against £184,396 in 1905.

27. The following return shews the principal articles of export with their values :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Groundnuts ...	29,499	36,050	169,426	278,055	108,629	—
	lb.	lb				
Rubber	9,071	10,454	915	1,084	169	—
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels ...	227	256	1,612	2,122	510	—
	lb.	lb.				
Wax	35,828	46,728	1,444	1,787	343	—
	No.	No.				
Hides	11,723	16,802	2,637	5,201	2,564	—

28. The increase is due to a larger crop of groundnuts, and also to the price of this staple being much higher in 1906 than it was in 1905.

29. There was a slight increase in rubber, which has continued in a very marked way during the present year. The export of hides is also steadily increasing, and the trade in live cattle has improved.

30. The following statement of the number of animals exported annually for the past six years may perhaps be of interest:—

Year.	Number.	Value.
		£
1901	294	382
1902	154	434
*1903	562	1,629
1904	374	1,002
1905	505	1,574
1906	721	2,485

* In 1903, 203 head of cattle were exported by the Government.

31. The exports for the year, both general and specie, were the record, as will be seen from the figures given below, and in this connection I may mention that the value of the trade of the Colony reached the large sum of £876,335, the nearest amount previously reached in any one year being £675,080.

Year.	Total Exports exclusive of Specie.	Exports of Specie.	Total Exports.
	£	£	£
1895	89,047	4,490	93,537
1896	116,438	543	116,981
1897	163,622	2,272	165 894
1898	245,110	2,722	247,832
1899	234,497	7,439	241,936
1900	240,705	41,271	281,976
1901	194,455	39,212	233,667
1902	210,350	37,790	248,140
1903	290,740	43,277	334,017
1904	249,289	61,994	311,283
1905	184,396	95,876	280,272
1906	299,252	129,426	428,678

(C.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

32. There are no mines in the Gambia, and though gold dust is occasionally brought to Bathurst, it comes from far away to the eastward.

33. During 1906 a prospecting expedition, run by a French syndicate, proceeded up the river with a view to ascertaining if gold could be found in payable quantities, but, so far, I have heard nothing of the results achieved.

34. The people still continue to weave long strips of cloth, which they sew together and make into pagns, or native gowns, but I do not think this industry is as much followed as it used to be. Still, seed cotton continues to command the old price of 2½*d.* to 3*d.* per pound, which points to there being a considerable demand for it.

35. There are no fisheries, though a certain number of the people of Bathurst go out fishing daily, selling as much as they can of what they catch in the market, and drying the remainder and sending it to the interior, where it is readily bought by the people.

(D.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

36. The principal agricultural product, indeed almost the only one in the Gambia, is the groundnut, and upon it the Colony really lives. The crops have improved in volume during the past six years, the average increase for that period over the previous six years being a little more than 11,000 tons.

37. In 1903, 1905, and 1906 seed was given out to the people, and this has undoubtedly improved the export both in quantity and quality.

38. The following figures give the details of these issues:—

—	Weight.	Value.	Crop.
1903.	Tons.	£	Tons.
By Government	104¼	1,034	
„ Merchants	87½	816	
Total	192	1,850	43,436
1905.			
„ Government	56½	679	
„ Merchants	387½	1,988	
Total	444	2,667	36,050
1906.			
„ Government	137	1,490	
„ Merchants	564	4,516	
Total	701	6,006	41,000

39. The export from the 1905 planting was not as large as was expected, but I think this can be accounted for by the fact that that year very few, if any, nuts came in from French territory, the price given in Senegal being higher than that paid in the Gambia.

40. The 1906-1907 crop was spoilt by heavy and unprecedented rain in December, which not only damaged the nuts to the extent of about 6 per cent., but brought down the price fully 50 per cent. Had the rain I mention not fallen, I have no hesitation in saying the export would have been the largest ever known.

41. In addition to groundnuts, the natives grow large quantities of corn or millet for food. Unfortunately, in both 1905

and 1906, the Bassé and Kinto, which are varieties of the Indian Sorghum, were destroyed by disease, and a good deal of the Suna and Sania, a small kind of millet, was so damaged by the rain as to be perfectly useless.

42. A very little maize is grown in the Protectorate. As far as I am able to judge, it seems to do well, and I hope to see the cultivation of it increase very rapidly, as the people seem to like it.

43. Where suitable land can be found, rice is grown to a very considerable extent, but not in nearly sufficient quantities to supply the demand for it. For instance, in 1906, 6,068 tons of it were imported and found a ready sale, and a very large quantity has come into the Colony this year, the greater part of which has already been disposed of.

(D 1.) General Value of Land.

44. The value of land and of property generally in Bathurst is said to be increasing. There have, however, been very few sales recently, and it is most difficult to speak definitely on the point. In Bathurst, in Russell and Wellington Streets, where the European houses of business are situated, very large sums would be paid for sites for factories, but further back the value falls very rapidly. In the first case £200 per acre or even more may be said to be the value; in the second, from £10 to £15.

(E.) Shipping.

45. The total tonnage for the year was 404,515; of this, 261 steamers represented 397,366 tons, and 94 sailing vessels 7,149 tons. From the return given below, it will be seen that there was a slight falling off in the tonnage of sailing vessels, but that the increase in that of steamers was nearly 80,000 tons.

Nationality of Vessels.	1905.			1906.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	204,952	17	204,969	254,842	323	255,165
French	58,023	1,885	59,908	64,998	2,082	67,080
German	25,682	—	25,682	41,148	—	41,148
Russian	4,648	—	4,648	15,130	—	15,130
American	—	3,190	3,190	—	1,976	1,976
Norwegian ...	5,478	391	5,868	3,936	—	3,936
Italian	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch	6,260	—	6,260	—	—	—
Portuguese ...	—	2,280	2,280	—	1,970	1,970
Danish	10,440	—	10,440	17,312	—	17,312
Spanish	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish	1,990	—	1,990	—	798	798
Total... ...	317,473	7,763	325,236	397,366	7,149	404,515

III.—LEGISLATION.

46. Fifteen Ordinances were passed during the year, the more important of which were:—The Customs Tariff Ordinance (No. 1), of 1906, under which the duty on kola nuts was increased from twopence to threepence per pound and on unmanufactured tobacco from threepence to fourpence per pound.

47. The Slave Trade (Abolition) Ordinance (No. 5), 1906, which repeals the Slave Trade (Abolition) Ordinance of 1894 and differs from that enactment in that under section 4 it is presumed that all slaves brought into the Protectorate are so brought for the purpose of being treated as slaves unless the contrary is shewn. Under section 5 a report has to be made to the Commissioners when any slaves are brought into the Protectorate. By section 6 all slaves coming in or being brought into the Protectorate are, *ipso facto*, free. In the same way by section 9 all children born of slaves shall, after the commencement of the Ordinance be free from their birth, and by section 11 all slaves become free on the death of their master.

48. Under the Judgments Extension Ordinance (No. 13), 1906, judgments obtained in certain of the courts in Sierra Leone are made effective in the Colony of the Gambia, and Ordinance No. 14, "The Registration of Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1906," requires all persons practising either medicine or dentistry to be registered, and provides that only persons whose qualifications are thus registered shall be entitled to sue for and recover fees in a court of law.

IV.—EDUCATION.

49. The number of schools in the Colony and Protectorate was the same in 1906 as it was in 1905.

50. The total number of children on the rolls of the primary schools in Bathurst was 1,062, or 61 more than in 1905. 401 children were presented for examination in the standards, and 112 in the sub-standards; of these, 268 passed in the former, and 70 in the latter. The school which gained the highest percentage at the annual examination was the Saint Mary's Anglican School; four years ago it took the lowest place, so the improvement is very marked. Owing to various causes it was not possible to examine the McCarthy Island School in 1906.

51. The secondary school, under the management of the Wesleyan Society, was continued during the year. There were 17 boys on the rolls, and the average attendance was 14. This school is not under the Board of Education, but I have, by invitation, inspected it, and I cannot say the results were more

than passable. Still, it is the only attempt at secondary education in the Colony, and for that reason deserves encouragement. The school fees amounted to £29 18*s.*, as against £24 9*s.* 6*d.* in 1905, and the voluntary contributions, which were only £23 17*s.* in 1905, were £50 14*s.* 6*d.* in 1906, making a total income of £80 2*s.* 6*d.*, which shews an excess of £32 5*s.* 10*d.* on the previous year.

52. The technical school continues to do good work, and the Colony is now beginning to derive advantage from it. There were 25 boys on the roll in 1906, and the average attendance was 21. The total expenditure on the school was £682 12*s.* 11*d.*, of which sum the Government contributed £300. Six boys have passed through their indentures at the school, and are now working at their trades in Bathurst. At the end of this year five more boys will complete their time, and leave the school.

53. The Mohammedan school is going on well, and I believe is popular with the people. On three days in the week the boys are given an ordinary English elementary education, and on the other three days they learn Arabic. The number of pupils on the roll was 125, and the average attendance 83. These figures include both standard and sub-standard children. There are in all ten boys from the Protectorate, who are the sons of Head Chiefs, at the school, and they are making good progress. Although not under the Board of Education, this school is visited regularly by the Inspector of Schools, and examined annually by him.

54. The expenditure on the school for 1906 was £136 4*s.*, and of this sum the Government contributed £120 10*s.*

55. The actual sum expended on education during the year was £739 14*s.*, but the grants for 1906, amounting to £479 18*s.*, were not paid until 1907. The total amount, therefore, expended in respect of the year must be taken as £1,219 12*s.*

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

56. The hospitals remained the same as in 1905. The General Hospital, the main building of which was built in 1854, has, as far as is possible, been brought up to modern requirements, and is much used by the public. The female hospital has accommodation for twelve patients, and is a substantial stone building, and was erected in 1902. The total number of in-patients in 1906 was 570, of which 23 were Europeans. There were in all 31 deaths, which, looking to the fact that in many cases the people will not go into hospital until they have tried their native remedies and the disease is far advanced, may be regarded as a small number. Only one

European died in hospital, Sister Dominic, from the Roman Catholic Convent, who succumbed to blackwater fever. Four European Government officials were in-patients, three of whom recovered, the fourth being invalided to England.

57. Of the 547 natives admitted, 91 were Government officials, 49 of whom suffered from fever, and 14 were Syrian traders. 168 are stated to have been Akus, who are the descendants of freed Yoruba slaves from Sierra Leone and still speak the former language. There were 157 Joloffs, but only 49 Mandingoes. The remainder belonged to 16 other different tribes.

58. The 31 deaths in the Hospital were due to the following diseases:—

Tetanus	2
Starvation	1
Sleeping sickness	3
Senile decay	1
Abscess of colon	1
Chronic asthma	1
Diarrhœa	2
Concussion of brain	1
Dysentery	1
Bronchitis	2
Debility	1
Blackwater fever	1
Exhaustion	1
Intermittent fever	1
Meningitis	2
Morbus cordis	4
Paralysis	2
Pneumonia	2
Phthisis	1
Rheumatism	1
	31

59. Of the Europeans admitted to hospital, seven were Spaniards, five sailors from ships, and eleven British subjects residing in Bathurst.

60. With regard to out-patients, calculated on the system followed last year and in previous years, the number treated was 11,293, as against 10,140 in 1905. The new cases were 4,922, as against 4,235 in 1905.

61. Vaccination was energetically carried out both in the Colony and the Protectorate, the number being, in the first instance, 1,214, and 812 in the second.

62. No case of small-pox was known of in Bathurst during the period under report, but in the Protectorate it broke out in several places and carried off a large number of persons, especially children.

63. The receipts by the Medical Department for the maintenance of sick and sale of medicines amounted to £105 2*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure was as follows:

Salaries and allowances	£2,543	3	0
Maintenance of sick and other charges	618	11	7
	£3,163	14	7

(B.) Savings Bank.

64. The only savings bank in the Colony is under the management of the Treasurer. At the close of the year there were 320 accounts remaining and the amount due to depositors was £4,711 18*s.* 7*d.* During 1906, £2,997 5*s.* 4*d.* was deposited and £3,216 14*s.* 5*d.* was withdrawn. The interest for the year at 2½ per cent. amounted to £116 16*s.* 11*d.*

65. There were thirty-six Friendly Societies registered in 1906. They had a sum of £724 3*s.* 11*d.* standing to their credit. Thirty-four of these societies render assistance to their members in time of sickness, &c. The remaining two have for their object amusement only.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

66. At the commencement of 1906 the police force consisted of a superintendent, an assistant superintendent (both Europeans), and 80 non-commissioned officers and men who were natives of Africa. Under this arrangement the cost of the establishment was estimated at £4,384.

67. During 1906 the force was reduced by ten non-commissioned officers and men, which brought the expenditure on it for that year down to £3,927 0*s.* 1*d.* For 1907 and future years the cost will be still further reduced to £3,835 1*s.* 2*d.*

68. The men are armed with the Martini-Enfield short carbine, and are instructed in the manual and firing exercises and company drill. They are fairly efficient, turn out well, are very clean and smart, and are well disciplined.

69. The force has an excellent band, composed of 15 non-missioned officers and men, which is trained by a European bandmaster.

70. The value of property reported to the police as stolen during 1906 was £44 16*s.* 2*d.*, of which articles worth £30 11*s.* 6*d.* were recovered.

71. There is a police reward fund, which is derived from forfeitures of pay and fines for misconduct. These are paid into the Treasury into a fund called the Police Reward Fund, which is administered by the superintendent of police, and from it rewards not properly chargeable to the Colonial funds are granted, subject to the approval of the Governor.

72. There is a fire brigade attached to the force consisting of one first-class sergeant at 15*s.* per month, one second-class sergeant at 12*s.* per month, and eight constables at 8*s.* per month. It is equipped with a Merryweather "India Office" pattern, No. 3 manual fire engine for 30 men, and pumps 136 gallons a minute 130 feet high. The number of calls to fires during the year were nine, as against 13 in 1905.

(B.) Prisons.

73. There is only one prison in the Gambia, and that is at Bathurst, and it has accommodation for 30 male and five female prisoners. The building itself, though old, is quite sufficient for the present requirements of the Colony.

74. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 12·53, as against 19·39 in 1905. Thirteen prisoners were undergoing sentence on the 1st January, 1906, and 85 were admitted during the year. Eighty men were discharged at the expiration of their sentences. One man earned the remission for exemplary conduct granted by the rules, two were found to be lunatics and sent to Sierra Leone, and one man escaped from custody and was not recaptured; one prisoner died from heart failure.

75. The expenditure on the prison was £693 8*s.* 5*d.*, and the value of the work performed by the prisoners is estimated at £111 18*s.* 3*d.*

76. The sanitary condition of the institution was excellent, and the health of the prisoners very good.

77. It was not found necessary to inflict corporal punishment on any prisoner during the year, and generally the behaviour of the prisoners was excellent.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

78. During 1906, 126 cases came before the police court, which were dealt with as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution or want of evidence	57
Dismissed on merits	14
Convicted	90
Committed for trial by Supreme Court ...	15
	176

79. Of the 15 cases for trial by the Supreme Court one fell through for want of prosecution, three prisoners were acquitted, and eleven convicted. Two cases of murder were brought in as manslaughter by the jury, and there was also another case of manslaughter.

80. The cases dealt with by the Native Courts in the Protectorate numbered 337, as against 193 in 1905. In 321 instances fines were inflicted, seven persons were sentenced to imprisonment, three cases were dismissed on the merits, two for want of evidence, and two were sent for trial by the Supreme Court.

81. The cases were distributed as follows:—

North Bank Province	58
South Bank Province	31
Upper River Province	193
McCarthy Island Province	28
Combo and Fogni Province	27
	337

82. There has been a great improvement in the manner in which the Native Courts deal with cases, and I believe them to be patient, conscientious, and impartial in the discharge of their duties.

83. On the 2nd January of the year under report a Mohammedan Court was opened for the trial of causes or matters between, or exclusively affecting, Mohammedan natives relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments, and guardianship, and a Cadi or Magistrate was appointed. Up to the 31st December, 1906, twelve cases had been brought before it and dealt with, and as the nature of these cases may be of some interest, I give the particulars of them:—

No.	Date.	Names.	Nature of Case.	How disposed of.
1	2nd January, 1906 ...	Julie Cham *v.* Demba Gay	Custody of child and return of dower.	Court ordered the dower to be paid and mother to keep child.
2	16th January, 1906 ...	Samba Secker *v.* Anna Gomez ...	Custody of child claimed to teach him Mohammedan religion.	The Court ordered child to remain with mother.
3	13th February, 1906...	Application by Yuma Turay ...	Permission sought to marry another.	Permission granted by the Court.
4	10th April, 1906 ...	Allasan Jagne *v.* mBenda NJie ...	Return of dower	$100 dower ordered to be returned by the Court, the father to maintain the child.
5	18th July, 1906 ...	Mariama Koita *v.* Binta Ann ...	Return of dower claimed ...	The Court ordered dower of $52 to be returned, also 3 cows which were deposited.
6	8th August, 1906 ...	Najiru Tal *v.* Fatu Fal	Return of wife or dower ...	Wife refusing to return being pregnant, Court ordered the dower to be returned ($189).
7	2nd August, 1906 ...	Momordoo Joof *v.* Juju Cham ...	Return of wife or dower ...	$25 dower returned as ordered by the Court.
8	10th August, 1906 ...	Sadaga NDure *v.* Fatu Balleh ...	Return of dower claimed ...	$160 and 8*d.* returned being the dower received.
9	16th August, 1906 ...	Momordo Sallah *v.* Mam NDow ...	Return of wife	Court ordered husband to pay deferred dower of $22.
10	20th September, 1906	Application by Yie Awa Cham ...	Permission sought to marry another.	Permission granted her to marry another, the former husband not having been heard of for 3 years.
11	25th October, 1906 ...	Momordo NJie *v.* Jaine Sarr (Alimami of Bathurst).	Permission sought to return dower to husband.	Court ordered the Alimami to return $315 to Jaine Sarr, and Jaine Sarr to give Alimami's daughter $100, he having got 5 wives.
12	22nd November, 1906	Osman Jobe *v.* Aminata Sarr ...	Return of dower claimed by husband.	Court ordered $176, the dower paid, to be returned.

84. On the whole the Court may be said to work well, and it is undoubtedly a great source of satisfaction to the Mohammedans of the Colony to have disputes amongst themselves relating to civil matters decided according to the Koranic law. So far, there has been no appeal from a decision of the Cadi. As an instance of the impartiality of the Court, I would call attention to the case in which the Alimamy of Bathurst, a very influential person from his position, was the defendant, and sentenced to refund a dowry amounting to £61.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

85. The population of the Colony may be taken to be 8,807. It is difficult to say definitely what the population of the Protectorate is. It has, undoubtedly, increased since the census of 1901, but not to any great extent, and I believe 155,000 may be taken as a fairly reliable estimate. An endeavour is being made to introduce a very simple system, under which a record of births and deaths will be kept by the Headmen and Alimamis of towns, but it has not been in force long enough yet to be able to tell if it will answer.

86. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 271, the same as in 1905, and the birth-rate is, therefore, 30·7 per thousand. 281 deaths were recorded, or 18 less than in 1905, the rate being 31·9 per thousand.

87. The number of marriages registered during the year was 22, and shews an increase of eight on 1905.

(B.) Public Health.

88. In Bathurst the general health of the people was very good, and there was no epidemic disease of any kind.

89. In the Protectorate, especially in Combo, Fogni, and the South Bank Provinces there was a good deal of small-pox, and this has had the effect of causing the people to bring their children forward to be vaccinated far more readily than in previous years. They now recognise the benefit derived from it, and during 1907, had lymph been available, great progress would have been made. As it is, over 3,000 children have been vaccinated by the Commissioners during their last tour of service.

(C.) Sanitation.

90. For a West African town, Bathurst is remarkably well kept from a sanitary point of view. Bordered as it is on two

sides by large swamps, there must, however, be a great deal of fever endemic in the place, and this it is impossible to prevent, though considerable improvement has been effected by the anti-mosquito sanitation measures which are vigorously prosecuted.

91. In the Protectorate the towns are, as a rule, much better laid out than they used to be, the streets being far wider and the open spaces more looked after than in former years. Prizes of £10, £7 10*s*., and £5 are given in each Province for the three cleanest towns, and these were well contested and have produced a decided improvement.

92. The water supply, even in Bathurst, is a great difficulty. As far as the Europeans are concerned, drinking water is obtained from tanks, and is fairly good, but the natives use well water, which, in view of the surroundings, cannot but be bad.

93. In the Protectorate, except in the towns situated on the banks of the river, wells only are used. Some of them are very deep, from 100 to 140 feet, and these give excellent water, but the majority are shallow, and from them the water is generally muddy and foul-smelling in the dry season.

(D.) Climate.

94. From the middle of December to the end of February the weather is very pleasant, and for the greater part of the dry season, that is from November to June, the climate is undoubtedly superior to that in the other West African Colonies. The rainy season, however, is, to my mind, much more trying than it is in Lagos. There, after a tornado or a fall of rain, the air is cool for some time, but in the Gambia this is not the case. From November to the middle of May the air is remarkably dry, but at other times it is most humid, and this has a very depressing effect.

95. In Bathurst I have rarely known the temperature fall below 65°, but in the Protectorate, in December, January, and February, it is, on most mornings, very little over 50° at 6 a.m. The hottest time of the day is from 1 to 3 p.m., and I have known the thermometer, under a thick thatch roof, shew 103° between these hours, but this is exceptional; though in April in the South Bank, McCarthy Island, and Upper River Provinces 100° to 104° is very common.

96. The rainfall in 1906 was 64·33 inches, as against 66·07 inches in 1905. In December 2·72 inches fell during the first ten days of the month, 1·29 inches being the greatest amount in any one day. This was quite unexpected, and most exceptional; in fact, if the records at the hospital are to be relied on, it is the first instance of rain in December during the past 26 years.

97. Below will be found the meteorological return for 1906:—

Months.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ..	160	—	95	60	35	76·8	—	—	E.	—	
February ..	165	—	100	61	39	79·0	·01	—	N.	—	
March ..	165	—	100	68	35	75·6	—	—	Do.	—	
April	163	—	94	60	34	70·6	—	—	Do.	—	
May	166	—	104	64	40	80·0	—	—	Do.	—	
June	160	—	100	62	38	78·9	4·07	—	Variable.	—	
July	160	—	96	64	32	82·5	16·29	—	Do.	—	
August ..	160	—	94	70	24	82·6	28·15	—	Do.	—	
September ..	162	—	97	72	25	83·8	0·34	—	Do.	—	
October ..	162	—	96	70	26	84·3	6·75	—	Do.	—	
November ..	161	—	99	69	30	84·6	—	—	E.	—	
December ..	158	—	96	62	34	78·4	2·72	—	E.	—	
Total ..	1,942	—	1,171	779	392	957·1	64·33	—	—	—	
Monthly average	161·8	—	97·5	64·9	32·6	79·7	9·19	—	—	—	

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

98. Mails for Dakar, the Canary Islands, Madeira, and England, and for Sierra Leone and the Leeward Coast as far as Opobo are carried by the steamers of the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, which call at Bathurst, outward and homeward, once in every fourteen days.

99. During the last two years a much better class of vessel has been introduced by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co., the managers of the two companies named, and on the outward voyage very good time is kept. These new steamers are about 5,000 tons measurement, and have good accommodation for a limited number of passengers. They are thirteen-knot boats, and are a great improvement on the type of vessel which formerly served Bathurst.

100. The total postal revenue for 1906 was £1,317, as against £2,731 in 1905, and of this amount £1,228 5*s.* 9*d.* was obtained from the sale of stamps.

101. The expenditure for the same period was £712 15*s.* 10*d.*, that for 1905 being £808.

102. The postal work shews an increase, 98,379 letters, postcards, newspapers, &c., having passed through the Post Office, as against 91,768 in 1905. The parcels also shew an increase, as they were 1,994 in 1906 as against 1,554 in 1905.

103. Money orders to the value of £2,027 were issued in the Colony during the year, £564 being the amount of those paid.

104. The value of the postal orders issued was £868, whilst those paid amounted to £204.

TELEGRAPHS.

105. Bathurst is connected with Europe by cable viâ Saint Vincent, Cape de Verde, and also with Sierra Leone. The cables are the property of the African Direct Telegraph Company, which, until November of the year under report, received a subsidy of £500 per annum from the Government, when the period of twenty years, for which it was granted, terminated.

TELEPHONES.

106. All the principal departments of the Government are connected by telephone, but the system has not extended to the outside public in any way.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

107. As a result of the circumstances which gave rise to the punitive expedition in 1901, it was decided that a company of the West African Frontier Force should be stationed in Bathurst. This company, which was raised at the end of 1901, numbers 126 native non-commissioned officers and men, two-thirds of whom are recruited from Sierra Leone and one-third from the natives of the Gambia Protectorate and places adjacent to it. It is officered by one captain, two lieutenants, and two European sergeants, seconded from His Majesty's Regular Forces.

108. When first enrolled the company was quartered in barracks in Bathurst, but this was not thought to be desirable, and during 1906 it was removed to lines built on the outskirts of the town.

109. The men were at first armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine, but this has been replaced by the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle.

110. The cost of the company for 1906 was £5,543 7*s.* 7*d.*

X.—GENERAL REMARKS.

111. 1906 was a very uneventful though prosperous year for the Gambia. The Protectorate was quiet, and the people contented and happy, in spite of a certain amount of suffering amongst them caused by the failure of the corn crops, upon which they depend to a great extent for food. The Government, however, issued a large quantity of rice on repayment,

which prevented any really acute distress and was much appreciated. The high price paid to the producer for his groundnuts had a very beneficial effect on trade, as is proved by the increased value of the imports and exports and by the large revenue collected.

112. During the year the extension of, and repairs to, the Government jetty were almost completed. Unfortunately it was rammed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co.'s steamship "Sapele" in March last, and two bays were destroyed, but what remains of it is the most substantial, useful structure yet constructed in the West African Colonies. The dredger, obtained in the main for deepening the Kai Hai Channel, was launched, and did excellent work in connection with the jetty, where it was used for removing the sand, mud, &c., which kept continually accumulating in front of it, whilst the repairs were going on. The repairs to the Senior Medical Officer's quarters were finished, making what was a very tumbledown building a most comfortable and commodious house, and the lines for the West African Frontier Force were also completed and occupied by the company on its return from Cape Saint Mary at the end of June.

113. The trade of the Gambia must be of an uncertain character so long as the groundnut remains the only staple. It is most difficult to persuade the native to take up any other products, because none are known suitable to the climate of the Gambia, with its long dry season, which will pay him so well for his labour. An experiment is being made this year with maize (Milium Nigricans), which has been so successful further down the coast, and also with the Egyptian Dhari (Sorghum Vulgare), and perhaps, if either of these give good crops, the people will cultivate them next year on a large scale if seed is issued to them, but it is almost impossible to persuade them to take up anything new.

114. At the factories in the Upper River a certain amount of trade in imported goods is done with places to the east of British territory, such as Tenda, Cognagui, Ferlo, and Fouta D'Jallon, and until a little over a year ago there was considerable caravan traffic between Fattatenda and the countries round Kayes. This, however, is now decreasing, and will not, I fear, recover, as every day the facilities for transport in Senegal are improving.

115. Though the climate of the Gambia is for some parts of the year better than in the other West African Colonies, it is for quite five months very trying for Europeans, and white labour would be impossible. Some 100 Europeans are employed as clerks both in Bathurst and up the river for about seven months, and, as a rule, their health is fair, but quite three-fourths of them go home for the rainy season, and all of those that remain out are withdrawn to Bathurst by the second week in June.

116. Perhaps the greatest peculiarity of this Colony is the way in which everything is at a standstill during the rainy season. Having been in Lagos for some years, where no difference as regards work is made between wet and dry seasons, I thought the course of action followed there might be pursued here with advantage, but experience shewed me my mistake, and I am now convinced that public works, such as the erection of buildings, &c., should only be undertaken from November to June, inclusive. Roads constructed during the rains would, no doubt, turn out well, but the cost of labour, if it could be obtained, would be ruinous, as the native takes shelter at the first sign of rain and remains under cover until it is over. Labour would also be very difficult to obtain, as the greater part of the men employed in Bathurst on unskilled work cultivate farms during the planting season and grow groundnuts and corn.

117. The rates of wages both for skilled and unskilled labour are much higher than in other places on the coast, and the cost of living is also more. The supply of skilled labour is very limited, and it is certainly inferior to that to be obtained in Lagos.

118. The social condition of the people of both Colony and Protectorate may be considered good. The inhabitants of the latter are of good class and, taken as a whole, are more advanced in their views and wide-minded than is the case further down the coast. Quite four-fifths of them are strict Mohammedans, and total abstainers. They are decidedly industrious for negroes, and, taken as a whole, are excellent farmers.

119. The general condition of the Gambia in 1906 was very satisfactory. The people were contented, and the commercial prosperity of the country judging by the imports, exports, and revenue of the Colony, was at a higher level than it has ever before been.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland...	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent...	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland...	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate...	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ...	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast...	"
535	Malta	1906–1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 576.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 536.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
October, 1908.

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No. 576

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 536.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
22nd August, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to attach my report on the Blue Book for 1907, which is being forwarded to Your Lordship by this mail.

I have, &c.,

H. M. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The total revenue for the year amounted to £65,892, being an increase on the estimated revenue, £58,730, of £7,162, and an increase of £462 as compared with that of 1906, which exceeded the revenue of any previous year between 1895 and 1905 by £9,866.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1906 and 1907, with the several increases and decreases:—

Heads of Revenue.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	51,013	52,048	1,035	—
Port Dues	931	894	—	37
Licences, Excise, &c.	1,838	1,712	—	126
Fees of Court, &c.	1,056	1,041	—	15
Post Office...	1,317	745	—	572
Rents, Government Property ...	314	389	75	—
Government Vessels	257	42	—	215
Interest	1,533	1,258	—	275
Protectorate	6,180	7,208	1,028	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	806	457	--	349
Land Sales...	186	98	—	88
Total	65,431	65,892	2,138	1,677

3. The increases were due to the importation of larger quantities of tobacco, kola nuts, and rice, and also to the ground nut crop, on which an export duty is charged, being larger than in 1906.

4. The decreases were due:—

Under "Licences" to licences being taken out in 1908 instead of at the end of 1907;

Under "Post Office" to a small sale of stamps. There were two surcharges in 1906.

Under "Government Vessels" to the Colonial steamer having been laid up for repairs during the greater part of the year;

Under "Interest" to sale of investments; and

Under "Miscellaneous" to fewer sales of old stores and presents.

5. The amount of revenue received under Customs was:—Import duty, £38,429; export duty, £13,619; making a total of £52,048.

6. The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1906 and 1907, with their respective increases and decreases:—

Heads of Receipts.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
Imports.	£	£	£	£
Ad Valorem	6,756	6,567	—	189
Wine	1,076	1,006	—	70
Spirits	9,482	5,046	—	4,436
Malt Liquor	190	149	—	41
Tobacco	3,946	5,094	1,148	—
Oils and Turps	930	691	—	239
Sugar	2,845	2,408	—	437
Kola Nuts...	9,812	12,695	2,883	—
Rice	3,041	3,560	519	—
Guns and Pistols	286	214	—	72
Powder	130	98	—	32
Salt...	263	655	392	—
Kerosene	230	240	10	—
Coffee, Raw	9	6	—	3
Total	38,996	38,429	4,952	5,519
Exports.				
Ground nuts	12,017	13,619	1,602	—
Total	51,013	52,048	6,554	5,519

7. The expenditure for the year amounted to £57,729, an increase of £273 over the estimated expenditure of £57,456; the actual revenue, however, exceeded the actual expenditure by £8,164. The expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by only £826.

8. The following return shows the heads of expenditure for 1906 and 1907, together with the various increases and decreases:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	917	1,219	302	—
The Governor	3,447	3,356	—	91
The Colonial Secretary	1,156	1,198	42	—
The Protectorate	5,885	7,228	1,343	—
Printing Department	338	358	20	—
Treasury	1,043	1,176	133	—
Customs Department	2,159	2,209	50	—
Post Office	713	770	57	—
Audit Department	479	605	126	—
Judicial Department	1,342	1,371	29	—
Attorney-General	456	652	196	—
Carried forward	17,935	20,142	2,298	91

Heads of Expenditure for 1906 *and* 1907—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	17,935	20,142	2,298	91
Education	740	1,184	444	—
Frontier Force...	5,543	6,107	564	—
Police	3,927	3,647	—	280
Prisons	693	774	81	—
Medical Department	3,140	3,247	107	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,104	1,208	104	—
Government Vessels	2,803	2,417	—	386
Charitable Allowances	108	107	—	1
Transport	394	545	151	—
Miscellaneous Services	3,618	3,487	—	131
Drawback and Refunds	153	119	—	34
Agriculture	337	499	162	—
Colonial Engineer's Department ...	1,717	1,922	205	—
Public Works Recurrent	3,759	7,252	3,493	—
Public Works Extraordinary... ...	7,739	4,991	—	2,748
Special Services	3,191	—	—	3,191
Volunteer Corps	—	79	79	—
Totals	56,901	57,727	7,688	6,862

9. The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Pensions.—To the pension due to Mr. C. H. H. Moseley, late Treasurer, for 1906, being paid in 1907, and to additional pensions having to be provided.

Protectorate.—Due to a sum of £983 on account of purchase of ground nut seed issued to the planters during the year, to the clearing of various waterways, additional stipends, and prizes for cleaning native towns.

Education.—Due to the grants earned by the schools for 1906 being paid in 1907.

West African Frontier Force.—To the re-arming of the force and to the erection of an additional range.

Colonial Engineer's Department.—Due to increase in salaries of clerks of works.

Public Works Recurrent.—Due to special repairs to old buildings being transferred to this vote from the vote for Public Works Extraordinary.

10. The principal decreases were under:—

Police.—Owing to supernumeraries having been dispensed with, and to less clothing being required.

Government Vessels.—Owing to the Government yacht "Mansah Kilah" undergoing repairs there was a saving under stores and coal.

Public Works Extraordinary.—Due to various large items being transferred to the vote "Public Works Recurrent."

11. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1903	55,564	67,504
1904	54,179	52,300
1905	51,868	72,297
1906	65,340	56,988
1907	65,892	57,729

12. There was no change in taxation during the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

13. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1907, was £43,500, as compared with £34,583 at the close of 1906, an increase of £9,017.

The surplus funds are invested in various Government securities.

14. The Colony has no public debt.

Currency.

15. The currency of the Colony is British sterling and the French five-franc piece, the latter being accepted by the Government at 3*s.* 10½*d.* English and French gold are also legal tender, but are very little used.

Rate of Exchange.

16. The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was one per cent.

Coins in Circulation.

17. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony and Protectorate is estimated at £221,250, made up as follows:—

	£
Bank of England Notes	200
British Gold	1,000
British Silver	80,000
French Gold	50
French five-franc pieces	140,000
	£221,250

18. During the year specie was imported to the value of £149,368, as compared with £167,168 in 1906, and £117,828 was exported, as against £129,426 in 1906. The decrease in the importation of specie was no doubt due to the fact that a smaller out-put of ground nuts for the season 1907-8 was anticipated, and consequently less silver would be required.

Municipalities, Local Boards, &c.

19. There are only two Boards of this nature in the Colony, namely, the Board of Health and the McCarthy Square Board.

20. The Board of Health consists of the Senior Medical Officer and the Colonial Engineer, who are *ex-officio* members, the Superintendent of Police, a Medical Officer, and two leading members of the native community. This year representatives of the Mandingoes and Joloffs resident in the town were appointed to the Board with satisfactory results.

21. The Board meets fortnightly, and is responsible for the sanitary condition of Bathurst. Its revenue is derived from: (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town at the rate of three per cent.; (2) from fees collected at the slaughter-house; and (3) from a grant-in-aid from the Government. The following revenue was received during the year:—

	£
Balance brought forward from last year ...	22
Local Rates	575
Slaughter-house Fees	112
Government Grant-in-aid	325
Sale of Stores	2
	£1,036

The expenditure for the same period was:—

	£
Salaries	114
Cleaning Drains and Streets, &c.	520
Lighting of Streets	167
Carts and Horses	127
Special expenditure connected with Mosquito Sanitation	204
Miscellaneous	24
	£1,156

an excess of payments over receipts of £120.

22. Ordinarily twenty labourers are employed sweeping and scavenging the town, but for the four months of the rainy season an additional gang is taken on for special work in regard to mosquito sanitation.

23. During the year the carts of the Board removed 1,513 cartloads of refuse, &c., to the dumping ground, and 21 cartloads of old tins and bottles, &c., were similarly dealt with. The Inspector paid 1,952 house to house visits, served 465 notices to abate nuisances, and in 15 cases it was found necessary to take out summonses to enforce sanitation. For a West African town Bathurst may be said to be very presentable, the streets being wide and clean.

McCarthy Square Board.

24. This square, which is situated in the centre of the town, was enclosed in 1905 and placed under separate management in 1906. The square is open to the public as a recreation ground, and games and sports of all kinds are held there. The Board is at present dependent on the Government for a grant for the upkeep of the square, as it has no revenue of its own. The expenditure for the year was £100.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports.

25. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £445,359, as against £447,657 in 1906, a decrease of £2,298. The imports of specie amounted to £149,368, which, when deducted from the total imports, leaves the value of the general imports at £295,981, as compared with £280,489 in 1906, an increase of £15,492 in favour of 1907.

26. The value of cotton goods imported during the year was £82,023, or £7,665 less than in 1906, of which £72,939 came from Great Britain, £7,746 from France, and £1,026 from Germany. The following return shows the principal articles of import for the years 1906 and 1907:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton Goods ...	3,895	3,449	89,688	82,023	—	7,665
	lbs.	lbs.				
Tobacco	223,054	294,664	5,650	8,249	2,599	—
Kola nuts... ...	864,034	1,015,474	29,586	39,942	10,356	—
	Galls.	Galls.				
Spirits	47,316	25,175	6,974	4,872	—	2,102
Wine	20,183	18,514	2,115	2,156	41	—
	Cwts.	Cwts.				
Sugar	5,953	5,181	5,229	4,655	—	574
	Tons.	Tons.				
Salt	1,053	2,622	642	2,211	1,569	—
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder ...	313	236	669	502	—	167
	Cwts.	Cwts.				
Rice	121,359	141,882	52,427	71,889	19,462	—

27. The increase in tobacco was due to the stock on hand at the close of the previous year being very small; in kola nuts to the expectation of a good trading season—the duty collected

on these nuts amounted to £12,695, the largest sum ever realised on this item of revenue. Salt, the product of the Cape Verde Islands, also shows an increase, and the increase in rice, which was 1,026 tons more than the quantity imported in the previous year, was due to the failure of all the corn crops.

28. The decrease in cotton goods was due to the large stocks on hand, and the decrease in spirits can be attributed to the same cause.

29. Of the total value of imports, exclusive of specie:—

53	per cent.	came from	Great Britain,
13	„	„	British Colonies,
20	„	„	France,
1	„	„	French Colonies,
10	„	„	Germany,
1	„	„	Portuguese Colonies, and
2	„	„	Other Countries.

30. The value of imports may be classified as under:—

	£
Specific Commercial Imports	140,799
Ad Valorem „ „	144,210
Free „ „	153,301
	£438,310
Free Government Imports	7,050
	£445,360

(B.) Exports.

31. The total value of exports for the year, inclusive of £117,828 on account of specie, amounted to £408,476, as compared with £428,678 in the previous year.

32. The following return shows the principal articles of export with their values:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground nuts ...	36,050	40,858	278,055	256,685	—	21,370
	lbs.	lbs.				
Rubber	10,454	61,405	1,084	5,686	4,602	—
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels ...	256	342	2,122	3,657	1,535	—
	lbs.	lbs.				
Wax	46,728	53,408	1,787	2,325	538	—
	No.	No.				
Hides	16,082	30,647	5,201	9,615	4,414	—

33. The principal increases were under rubber, palm kernels, and hides. The export of hides, which in 1902 were valued at £520, has been increasing year by year. It will be seen that this year the value of hides exported amounted to £9,615.

34. The decrease in the value of ground nuts, £21,370, was due to the rains which fell in the last month of 1906 and damaged many of the nuts which had been pulled, with the result that the price was considerably reduced.

35. Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, for the year,—

8½	per cent.	went to	Great Britain,
1	„	„	British Colonies,
82	„	„	France,
2¼	„	„	French Colonies,
2¾	„	„	Germany,
2½	„	„	Holland, and
1	„	„	Other Countries.

36. The destination of the ground nuts was as follows:—

	Tons.	Value. £
Great Britain	480	3,998
France	38,091	237,236
Germany	1,159	8,116
Holland	1,120	7,282
Other Countries	8	50
Total	40,858	256,685

(C.) Manufactures and Fisheries.

37. There are no mines in the Colony.

The prospecting expedition run by a French syndicate and referred to in last year's report returned again this year to make further investigations as to whether gold could be found in payable quantities in the upper part of the river. The members of the expedition have returned home by way of the Senegal, but nothing has been learnt as to the result of their researches.

38. The people still continue to make long narrow strips of cloth, which they sew together and make into gowns. A good native-made gown will command a much higher price than anything which can be imported from Manchester. A certain amount of English yarn is used by the natives.

39. A small amount of pottery is made in the Colony.

40. Of fish there is an abundance, and both fishermen from Bathurst and from the French territory find a good trade. Fresh fish can be procured twice daily, and what is not sold is sun-dried and eventually taken up the river and readily exchanged for corn, rice, or millet. The price is very reasonable.

(D.) Agricultural Industries, &c.

41. The ground nut is the main product of the Colony and Protectorate. During the year the quantity exported amounted to 40,858 tons, of the value of £256,685. This was an increase tonnage of 4,808 tons over 1906, but owing to heavy and unprecedented rains in December, 1906, a portion of the crop was spoilt; otherwise the output would have been considerably larger. Another cause which helped to reduce the export of this article was that the merchants offered a very low price for the nuts, with the result that many nuts which would ordinarily have come from French territory to English trading stations found their way to Senegal, where the merchants were giving higher prices.

42. In addition to ground nuts large quantities of corn and rice are grown, but the crops are not nearly enough to meet the demand. As regards rice, which is the chief food of the natives, 7,094 tons, of the value of £71,889, were imported during the year.

43. Supplies of pumpkins, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, ochros, and vegetable gourd are sometimes to be obtained, but they are not plentiful. English vegetables such as cabbages, carrots, turnips, lettuces, and French beans can be grown with some success from November to April.

44. Fruit is not plentiful, but excellent oranges, bananas, pawpaws, and mangoes can generally be obtained.

Timber.

45. Mahogany and rosewood trees are to be found in nearly all the districts in the Protectorate, but they are too scattered to allow of a profitable export trade. Both woods are used in the building of cutters, boats, and houses. Rhun palms, of which there are a great number in the Colony, are used as piles for bridges and wharves at the stations along the river—the palm being particularly suitable for this class of work.

General Value of Land.

46. The value of land in Bathurst is gradually increasing, and more buildings are being erected every year. The value is about £200 per acre in a good part of the town, and about £8 for plots of about 80 feet square in the native portion of the town. Beyond the island of Bathurst, but near it, the land is worth about £8 an acre.

(E.) Shipping.

47. The total tonnage for the year was 453,784 tons, made up as follows:—

	Tons.
Steam vessels	449,367
Sailing vessels	4,417

48. The following return gives in detail the total tonnage and nationality of the shipping for the years 1906 and 1907, which shows an increase of 49,269 tons in favour of 1907:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1906.			1907.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	254,842	323	255,165	304,261	242	304,503
French	64,998	2,082	67,080	61,956	1,903	63,859
German	41,148	—	41,148	40,422	—	40,422
Russian	15,130	—	15,130	9,038	—	9,038
American... ...	—	1,976	1,976	—	1,442	1,442
Norwegian ...	3,936	—	3,936	18,722	—	18,722
Portuguese ...	—	1,970	1,970	740	830	1,570
Danish	17,312	—	17,312	9,204	—	9,204
Swedish	—	798	798	—	—	—
Greek	—	—	—	5,024	—	5,024
Total... ...	397,366	7,149	404,515	449,367	4,417	453,784

III.—LEGISLATION.

49. Eight Ordinances were passed during the year. The more important were:—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to amend the Protectorate Ordinance, 1902," wherein (1) the area controlled by a Travelling Commissioner in the Protectorate was altered from "Territory" to "Province," confusion having arisen owing to the want of a distinctive word; (2) to give the Governor power to appoint a deputy to a Head Chief if necessary; and (3) to give the Governor-in-Council power to make regulations providing for the protection of the staple crop grown in the Colony.

No. 2. An Ordinance declaring that provisions contained in the "Attorney-General's (Application of Laws) Ordinance, 1902," shall apply to the Legal Assistant to the Governor. This Ordinance was passed in order to enable the Legal Assistant to perform the duties assigned to the Attorney-General, there being at present no Attorney-General in the Colony.

No. 4. "An Ordinance to provide for the organization and establishment of a Volunteer Force."

IV.—EDUCATION.

50. There are seven primary schools in the Colony and Protectorate. Five at Bathurst, one in Kommbo, added this year, and one at McCarthy Island. They are established by and are under the management of the various religious denominations, viz.: Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan, and receive grants-in-aid from the Government, the Anglican having one school, the Roman Catholics two, and the Wesleyans four primary schools in addition to a secondary and a technical school. There is also a Mohammedan school which receives aid from the Government.

51. There were 1,306 children on the registers of the schools of the Colony, and of this number 1,233 were attending the schools in Bathurst; 124 of these children are on the registers of the Mohammedan school, and 25 on the registers of the Wesleyan Technical School. This total makes a record.

52. 424 children were presented in the standards, of which 278 passed, and in the sub-standards 60 passed out of the 108 children presented. The number of passes also makes a record.

53. The income of the several schools in Bathurst was as under:—

School.	School Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Anglican	30	98	224	352
Wesleyan	61	234	193	488
Roman Catholic ...	36	338	340	714
Total... ...	127	670	757	1,554

The grants to the Anglican and Roman Catholic include the Government grant of £150 per annum to the superintendent of each school. The Wesleyans have not yet been able to take advantage of this grant.

54. The expenditure of the schools for the year was:—

School.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School Materials.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Anglican	—	—	25	318	8	343
Wesleyan	20	25	10	429	4	488
Roman Catholic	—	10	65	631	—	714
Total	20	35	100	1,378	12	1,545

Secondary Education.

55. The Wesleyan Missionary Society is the only body which has a secondary school for boys in the Colony. The number on the register is 17, while the average attendance is 13. The school fees amounted to £23, and the expenditure to £69.

Technical School.

56. This school continues under the management of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and is of an undenominational character. The school has at present 18 boys on its register, of whom 10 are receiving instruction in joinery, &c., two are being taught bricklaying, and five blacksmithery. Those pupils who have not passed the fifth standard receive instruction every day in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school is under a European instructor, and receives a grant-in-aid from the Government of £300 a year. Some of the boys as soon as they have served their apprenticeship find ready employment in the Public Works Department, and as a rule turn out excellent workmen.

Mohammedan School.

57. This school, which was established in 1903, continues to make good progress. The number of children is 124, one less than last year. The average attendance during the year was 79, as compared with 83 last year. Arabic is taught for three days of the week, and on the other days the pupils receive instruction in English and arithmetic. When the school was first opened the Chiefs in the Protectorate were invited to send their sons to Bathurst to enable them to be properly taught. At first two or three Chiefs sent their boys on condition that they were not to be turned into "trouser-men"; gradually other Chiefs sent their sons, and at present there are ten boys in Bathurst; curious to relate, however, nearly all the Chiefs asked in the early part of this year that their sons might be sent to the Anglican school to learn English. They are sharp youngsters, and many of them are in the higher standards. The boys while in Bathurst are supported by the Government.

58. The expenditure incurred by the Government on account of Education during the year, exclusive of the salary of the Inspector of Schools, amounted to £1,264, made up as follows:—

	£
Contribution to salaries of European Superintendents	300
Contribution to salaries of teachers in the Mohammedan School	137
Grants-in-aid of Schools and Prizes	527
Grant to Wesleyan Industrial School	300
Total	£1,264

59. The total number of children on the school rolls in the Colony was:—

Roman Catholic schools	481
Wesleyan schools	498
Anglican school	178
Mohammedan school	128
Technical school	25
Grand total	1,310

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

60. There are two hospitals in Bathurst. The general hospital consisting of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class wards for men, with an adjoining bungalow for women, and a contagious disease hospital recently erected two miles out of Bathurst, and off the main road going to Cape St. Mary. This hospital was removed from the town as it was found to be too near to the lines erected for the Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force. It is a great improvement on the old building, which was made of thatch and bamboo. Many improvements have also been made in the general hospital during the year. The consulting and waiting rooms have been converted into the dispensary, affording more room than formerly, and a portion of the old female ward, which was condemned many years ago, has been renovated and converted into a very good consulting room, waiting room, and dressing room for out-patients. This change has been greatly appreciated by the out-patients, as formerly, owing to want of space, they had to wait outside in the open, which was very trying during the rainy season. A staircase has also been built, which allows of patients being taken with ease in a stretcher from the ground floor to the first floor and operating room. Many improvements have been made in this institution during the past six years and it can compare favourably with similar institutions in the other West African Colonies.

61. The accommodation in the wards is as follows:—

	Beds.
First class ward—men	4
Second class ward—men	10
Third class ward—men	24
Female ward	12

making the total number of beds to 50.

62. The total number of patients admitted into the hospital during the year was 560 or 10 less than in 1906.

63. The following table shows the number of patients in the hospital during the year:—

—	Remaining in hospital on 31st December, 1906.	Admitted during the year.	Died.	Remaining in hospital on 31st December, 1907.
Europeans	—	27	1	1
Natives	9	382	25	11
Civil police ... —	—	45	1	1
West African Frontier Force.	1	81	2	3
Syrians	—	14	—	—
Total ...	10	550	29	16

64. Of the 29 deaths in the hospital nine took place within twenty-four hours of admission, and six within forty-eight hours.

65. The deaths in the hospital were mainly due to small-pox, alcoholism, rheumatism, encephalitis, paralysis, tetanus, pericarditis, pneumonia, and nephritis.

66. The number of out-patients treated during the year was 11,893, as compared with 11,293 cases treated in 1906. The old cases numbered 6,699 and the number of new cases was 5,194.

67. Of the European population of 128, of which 39 are officials, there were two deaths, one an official who died from encephalitis, and a factory agent of one of the trading firms who died of malignant malarial fever. A non-official was also invalided.

68. In giving the number of Europeans as 128, it must be remembered that more than half of this number are absent from the Colony during the rainy season, when the conditions are very trying.

69. Among the European officials 14 were on the sick list during the year for an average of 5½ days. This compares favourably with the previous year when 27 officials were on the sick list for an average period of over 8 days.

70. Among the native officials 83 were on the sick list for 383 days, as compared with 91 in 1906, who were on the sick list for 475 days, the average number of days for each patient in 1907 being 4½ days, while in 1906 it was a little over 5 days.

71. Vaccination was carried out throughout the year both in Bathurst, where 1,370 cases were successful, only 41 cases being failures, and in the Protectorate where it is performed by the Commissioners as well as by a Medical Officer. They vaccinated 3,361 persons, but owing to their having to move on from place to place within three or four days after the vaccination had been done, it is difficult to say how many of the cases were successful.

72. In Bathurst there were only three cases of small-pox, which had very probably been contracted elsewhere. In the Protectorate there were several outbreaks, but it is pleasing to be able to record that the natives are rapidly realising the efficiency of vaccination. During the year the people of Brufut, a town not far from Bathurst, refused to allow their children to be vaccinated; a few months afterwards small-pox broke out rather badly in the town. When, however, they saw that the people in the neighbouring towns, with which there was frequent communication, who had been vaccinated, did not catch the disease, they quickly changed their views and clamoured to have it done. The lymph, which for several years past has been obtained from the Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology, continues to be most satisfactory.

73. There are no asylums in the Colony. Lunatics are generally sent to the asylum at Sierra Leone. It is proposed to establish a home for destitute persons and those suffering from incurable diseases who are at present met with in the streets begging for alms.

74. While under this head it is desirable to record that a hospital and dispensary has been erected during the year at McCarthy Island, an important trade centre situated about 160 miles up the river. It has been long asked for, and is much appreciated by the natives. It is in charge of a qualified dispenser, who is supervised by the Protectorate Medical Officer.

75. The receipts and expenditure under the Medical Department during the year were as follows:—

Receipts.	£
Maintenance of sick and sale of medicines ...	105

Expenditure.		
Salaries and allowances, &c.	£3,247	
Maintenance of sick and purchase of medicines, &c.	1,208	
Total		£4,445

(B.) Savings Bank.

76. There is only one savings bank in the Colony, which is under the management of the Treasurer. The amount remaining on deposit at the close of the year was £4,877, as compared with £4,712 at the end of 1906. A large portion of these deposits belongs to societies connected with religious communities. During the year the deposits were £2,183, while the withdrawals amounted to £2,136. The interest allowed on deposits at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum amounted to £118. The number of depositors at the end of the year was 309, as compared with 320 in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Police.

77. The strength of the force is 72, consisting of a superintendent, assistant superintendent, who are Europeans, and 70 non-commissioned officers and men. The force was reduced in 1906 by 10 men. Sixty-three non-commissioned officers and men are stationed at headquarters and one non-commissioned officer and six men are stationed at various places in the Protectorate.

78. The men are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines and have three seven-pounder R.M.L. guns in their charge. Besides their ordinary duties they are exercised in firing exercise and company drill, and may be regarded as a semi-military force. The force also has charge of a 30-man Merryweather manual fire engine, with which they drill twice weekly. The engine can pump 130 gallons a minute and throw a jet 130 feet high. The number of calls to fires during the year was 10, as against 9 in 1906. The loss by these fires was estimated at £140.

79. The value of property reported to the police during the year as stolen was £121, of which £91 was recovered.

80. The force, whose discipline is very satisfactory, has an excellent band, which has been trained by a European bandmaster.

81. The expenditure on account of the force during the year was £3,647.

(B.) Prisons.

82. There is one prison in Bathurst, which has accommodation for 30 male and five female prisoners. There is also a small prison at McCarthy Island in which prisoners are detained until they can be sent to headquarters.

83. The building is an old one, but at present answers all the requirements. In the men's portions there are fifteen separate cells and four associated wards, while on the women's side there are two associated wards and one separate cell.

84. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 19·42, as compared with 12 53 in 1906. Thirteen prisoners were undergoing sentence on the 1st of January, 1907, and 102 were admitted during the year, and at the end of the year there were 21 remaining. There were two deaths in the prison, one from beri-beri and one from nephritis.

85. The prisoners were employed during the year in breaking stones, in cleaning Government compounds, and in whitewashing the prison buildings. The value of the work done was estimated at £155, while the expenditure on account of staff and maintenance was £774.

86. There was no corporal punishment inflicted during the year, and the eight offences committed were of a minor nature.

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

87. During the year 239 cases were brought before the police court, being 78 cases more than last year. This was due to 64 of the cases being for the offence of selling goods in the market without obtaining in the first instance a stall ticket. They were all petty cases which were met by small fines. The other cases were not of a serious nature, 20 being for "abusive language," 6 for "loitering on the Government wharf," 17 for "committing nuisance," 36 for "being drunk in the public streets"—six less than last year, 20 for "petty larcenies," 34 for "assault," 5 for offences under the "Artisans and Servants Ordinance," and several other small offences. In 169 cases convictions were obtained.

88. Ten cases were tried in the Supreme Court. In five of the cases the charge was "housebreaking and larceny," two were acquitted, and the remaining three found guilty were sentenced to a week's imprisonment and a whipping.

Protectorate.

89. Sixteen cases from the Protectorate were tried in the Supreme Court. One for "unlawfully adjudicating on a case in the Protectorate"; one for "shooting with intent to commit murder"; five were found guilty of "abducting a girl under sixteen years of age"; one for "feloniously departing from the limits within which he was ordered to reside by the Governor"; one was found guilty of "cattle stealing"; there was one case of "shopbreaking and larceny"; one case of "murder," in which the prisoner was found guilty of "manslaughter." In one case of "unlawfully giving credit" and in another where three men were charged with "manslaughter," the prisoners were acquitted.

90. Three hundred and thirty-nine cases were adjudicated upon by the native tribunals, mostly for "neglecting to obey the lawful orders of the Chiefs" and for "offences against the person" for which fines were generally imposed. There were only seven cases of imprisonment; there are no cases however which call for special attention.

The cases were distributed as follows:—

North Bank Province	63
South Bank „	26
Upper River „	172
McCarthy Island „	32
Kommbo & Fogni „	46
Total	339

91. On the whole the Chiefs and other members of the native tribunals do their work very well, and every year shows some improvement.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

92. The population of the Colony may be taken at 8,807, and that of the Protectorate may be estimated at 137,516, making a total of 146,323.

93. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 326; this represents a birth-rate of 29·1 per 1,000. The deaths recorded were 296, and represent a death-rate of 31·6 per 1,000.

94. There were 29 marriages during the year, which is an increase of 7 on the marriages for 1906.

95. At the beginning of the year the Chiefs and Headmen in the Protectorate were given red and blue books with pencils to match, and had it carefully explained to them that they were to enter all deaths in the red book and all births in the blue book. This they promised to do. A return was made at the end of the year, and the estimated population of each province with the return of births and deaths taken from these books is given hereunder:—

Province.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.
Upper River	49,685	1,892	1,388
McCarthy Island	19,459	964	615
North Bank	49,325	1,417	956
South Bank	12,004	621	476
Kommbo and Fogni	7,043	443	334

96. The natives view with suspicion the counting of the people and their cattle, and did not take to the idea of entering in a book every birth or death, but the object was carefully explained to them, and with the assurance that the imposition of a poll-tax was not intended, all the Headmen have made entries in their books. It is too much to say that the present returns can be regarded as accurate, but it is very probable that in a few years these books will give a good idea of the number of births and deaths every year in each district.

(B.) Public Health.

97. The general health of the Colony and Protectorate during the year was good. There was a certain amount of small-pox in the Protectorate, and three mild cases were treated in Bathurst.

(C.) Sanitation.

98. The town of Bathurst was kept in a good sanitary condition during the year. The various wells in the town were

inspected weekly, and the pumps kept in working order. Everything possible has been done to keep these wells and their surroundings clean, but it is a difficult matter to supply the natives with good drinking water. The Europeans, and most of the well-to-do natives, have tanks round their houses which contain sufficient drinking water to last during the eight dry months of the year.

99. In the Protectorate every opportunity is taken of opening up the streets and making the people build their houses in line. There has been a marked improvement in this direction during the past few years. The surroundings of the wells, some of which are very deep, are also kept clean.

(D.) Climate.

100. From the middle of November to April the climate may be said to be not unpleasant; but in the rainy season—July to October—it is very trying, and the mosquitoes add greatly to every one's discomfort.

101. In the dry season the thermometer sometimes registers as low as 56° in the early morning, but rises during the day to as high as 96° and sometimes 100°. These great variations are very trying. In some of the Provinces of the Protectorate after April the thermometer often rises to 100° and 104°. In the rainy season the temperature ranges between 70° and 90°.

102. The rainfall amounted during the year to 34 inches, which was 32 inches less than the rainfall of the previous year. The average rainfall is about 50 inches.

103. Below will be found the meteorological return for the year:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	General direction.
January	161	95	57	38	77·4	—	E.
February	162	100	63	37	79·6	—	N.
March ...	165	103	65	38	80·9	—	N.
April ...	160	93	63	30	77·4	—	N.
May ...	158	94	65	29	77·8	—	N.
June ...	160	96	64	32	81·8	1·11	Variable
July ...	159	95	69	26	82·4	4·71	Do.
August	163	95	69	26	81·1	15·92	Do.
September	161	94	69	25	81·9	10·79	Do.
October	162	97	70	27	82·7	1·13	Do.
November	157	92	67	25	77·6	·34	E.
December	157	92	61	31	75·2	—	E.

Total rainfall 34·00 inches.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

104. There is a fortnightly service of mail steamers belonging to the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company running between Liverpool and Bathurst. Communication is also held with the Canary Islands and places on the West African Coast by these steamers. Monthly steamers of these lines from London and steamers of the Woermann and other lines from Hamburg call here when inducement offers.

105. In recent years there has been great improvement in the size and speed of the steamers running from Liverpool to Bathurst, but many of them are without a smoking room or ladies' sitting room, so that when unable to stay on deck the saloon has to be sought by every one. The cost of a first class passage from Liverpool to Bathurst used to be £18 10*s.*; this rate however has recently been increased to £22. The catering on the main line steamers has been much improved, but the unfortunate passengers bound for Bathurst do not share the good fortune which has come to the passengers on those steamers.

106. On the inland waters, besides the Government yacht, there are several steamers belonging to the merchants, which make frequent trips to the upper river. There are also six launches and a fleet of cutters varying in size from 5 to 40 tons. In the ground nut season steamers drawing 10 to 12 feet can easily load their cargoes at McCarthy Island, about 160 miles up the river.

Post Office.

107. The revenue for the Post Office for the year was £745, as against £1,317 in 1906, and of this amount £609 was obtained from the sale of stamps.

108. The expenditure for the same period was £770, of which £247 was expended on the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony. Last year the expenditure was £713.

109. The value of the money orders issued during the year was £1,848, while the value of orders paid during the year amounted to £375.

110. The value of the postal orders issued was £992, and those paid amounted to £184.

Telegraphs.

111. Bathurst is connected with Europe by cable viâ St. Vincent, Cape Verde, and also with the other West African Colonies viâ Sierra Leone. The annual subsidy of £500, which the Government paid the African Direct Telegraph Company, lapsed last year. There is no inland telegraph in the Colony.

TELEPHONES.

112. A Government telephone exists in Bathurst, and all the principal departments are connected. During the year the barracks of the West African Frontier Force were connected with the lines of the men, and the system was also extended to Cape St. Mary, about seven miles and a half from Bathurst.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

113. The year was not a very prosperous one for the Colony generally. A good crop of ground nuts was anticipated, and at the opening of the trade in November one shilling and nine pence was paid for a bushel. Unfortunately most unusual and heavy rains fell in December, 1906, and damaged the crops, which had been dug and were lying in the fields before being "beaten." The price at once fell to one shilling a bushel, and in some instances to nine pence. The natives were greatly disheartened, and for some time refused to sell. Eventually the prices went up to 1*s.* 3*d.* and 1*s.* 6*d.* a bushel, but there was great soreness about it. To prevent the possibility of such a disaster occurring again regulations were passed under the Protectorate Ordinance whereby farmers are required to place unbeaten nuts on a platform of brushwood one foot in thickness above the ground, and then to thatch the stacks with palm leaves or grass. When explained to them the planters at once saw the benefit to be derived from these regulations, and they are complied with all over the Protectorate at the end of 1907. The people also suffered in some of their corn crops being destroyed by blight, and some lying on the ground beginning to sprout after the late rains, and consequently ruined. The outlook for the rainy season for the people was very serious, but the Government came to the rescue and made an issue to them of 8,500 bags of rice, the cost of which was recovered in the early part of 1908 without any difficulty. An experimental issue of three tons of maize from Grand Canary was also made to the farmers. The results were most successful, as it grew more quickly than the native corn, produced a larger ear, and was sweeter; the only complaint came from the women who said it was harder to beat into flour.

114. The work of strengthening and extending the Government wharf, which was commenced in 1905, was completed in February, at a cost of £11,895, but unfortunately it was rammed in March by one of Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's steamers when attempting to come alongside, and two of the bays at one end of the wharf were carried away. The damage done was considerable, but the rebuilding was completed in June, 1908.

115. The work of dredging the Kai Hai Channel, which is estimated to cost £11,882, exclusive of plant, &c., was com-

menced this year, and about 2,726 cubic yards of mud and sand have been removed. The deepening of this channel, which is about 140 miles up the river, will, it is hoped, allow of steamers drawing 15 to 16 feet to proceed to McCarthy Island, a great trading depôt, about 160 miles up the river.

116. During the year various samples of oranges, rubber, and jute were sent to the Imperial Institute for report. The oranges, on which Bathurst rather prides itself, consisted of eight cases containing 929 oranges. They arrived in England in good condition, and samples of the best oranges were submitted to various importers and dealers in London, who were invited to give their views on them. Without exception the opinion of these gentlemen was very disappointing. The oranges were said to look as if they had been picked when too green and had a stale appearance, and were too spotty to obtain a ready sale. One firm sent to inspect the whole consignment with the result that the representative stated that if such oranges arrived in London during a normal Spanish season it was doubtful whether the proceeds of the sale would cover freight and charges. The final decision was that unless the oranges could be considerably improved there was no market for them in London. As regards the rubber *Ficus vogelii*, only a small sample was sent, but its commercial value was placed at about three shillings per pound or a little more if free from stickiness. Two further samples of this rubber, weighing 84 lbs. and 15 lbs. respectively, have been sent to the Imperial Institute, and the report is awaited with interest. Samples of *Urena lobata* fibre were also sent to the Institute, and were reported to be soft, well cleaned and prepared and of good lustre; the strength was good and the length of staple averaged 3 feet. The commercial value was stated to be £17 per ton, and the fibre would be readily saleable in large quantities.

117. It may interest sportsmen to know that while good sport may be obtained in the Gambia, big game is not plentiful. During the year regulations have been passed under "The Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish Preservation Ordinance, 1901," under which some animals and birds are protected from June to the following March, and such birds as marabouts, egrets, bustard, crown birds, &c., are protected from June to December. A sportsman's licence costs £5.

118. The rates of wages generally are higher than in other West African Colonies, and the cost of living both for Europeans and natives is also higher.

119. The Colony is quite unsuited for European labour. More than half of the European community consisting of officials, merchants, and their assistants, leave the Colony during the rainy season—July to November.

120. The death of Mr. Battey, Chief Engineer and Master of Government Vessels, has to be recorded with much regret. He

had been a long time in the service, had done good work, and was very popular with his brother officers. Mr. M. MacAffer was appointed in his place.

121. Dr. R. M. Forde, who had been Senior Medical Officer in the Colony since 1895, was promoted to the office of Principal Medical Officer of Sierra Leone, and Dr. T. Hood, from Sierra Leone, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

122. Generally speaking the condition of the people for the year under review may be said to have been satisfactory, and with good prices obtaining in 1908 every one is satisfied.

123. The following returns are attached:—

(1) Statements showing the imports and exports for the last five years.

(2) A statement showing the imports and exports of specie and other articles for the last five years.

(3) A statement showing shipping, inwards and outwards, for the last five years.

124. Returns showing imports and exports of the Colony for the last five years:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1903	105,628	34,658	37,907	6,338	30,259	214,790
1904	88,529	36,824	48,443	4,603	19 031	197,430
1905	88,357	31,089	43,783	1,72[illegible]	16.773	181,725
1906	142,751	30,759	64,694	5,534	36,741	280,489
1907	155,761	40,895	58,610	2,539	38,186	295,991
Total ...	581,026	174,235	253,437	20,737	140,990	1,170,425

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1903	9,405	4,546	254,114	6,650	18,025	290,740
1904	13,003	2,948	183,804	7,550	41,984	249,289
1905	10,283	3,069	140,436	4,169	26,439	184,396
1906	17,904	4,412	225,222	5,031	46,683	299,252
1907	25,221	2,975	238,488	6,568	17,396	290,648
Total ...	75,816	15,950	1,042,064	29,968	150,527	1,314,325

125. Return showing the imports and exports, inclusive of specie, for the last five years :—

Imports.

Articles.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	126,273	108,719	123,456	167,168	149,368
Other articles ...	214,790	197,430	181,725	280,489	295,991
Total ...	341,063	306,140	305,181	447,657	445,359

Exports.

Articles.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	43,277	61,994	95,876	129,426	117,828
Other articles ...	290,740	249,289	184,396	299,252	290,648
Total ...	334,017	311,283	280,272	428,678	408,476

126. Return showing the total shipping—inwards and outwards—during the last five years :—

Year.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1903	24,936	138,341	387,717
1904	232,001	135,559	367,560
1905	204,969	120,267	325,236
1906	255,165	149,350	404,515
1907	304,503	149,281	453,784

H. M. Brandford Griffith,
Acting Governor.

Bathurst, Gambia,
August, 1908.

APPENDIX.

Economic Investigations conducted at the Imperial Institute during the year 1907 for the Colony of the Gambia.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of the Colony on the following subjects, on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations have been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which it is probable that there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

Rubber.—A specimen of *Ficus Vogelii* rubber was examined, and found to contain less resin than samples of this rubber previously received at the Imperial Institute from other parts of West Africa. A larger sample has been asked for in order that technical trials may be made.

Cotton.—A sample of unginned native cotton was of fairly good quality and somewhat similar to American cotton, but contained a quantity of stained fibre. It was valued at 7*d.* per lb. with "middling" American at 7·40*d.* per lb.

Jute and jute-like fibres.—The results of the examination of two samples of jute showed conclusively that jute of excellent quality can be grown in the Gambia; the specimens submitted were valued at £21 and £28 per ton.

A number of jute-like fibres from the Cambia have also been examined, including *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *H. quinquelobus*, *H. rostellatus*, and *Urena lobata*.

Tanning-bark.—A sample of mangrove bark contained too little tannin to be worth consideration for export, but was of special interest on account of the unusually good and light-coloured leather it produced. The bark might be used locally for tanning, or for the manufacture of a tanning extract.

Oranges.—A trial consignment of Kommbo (Brufut) oranges was forwarded in order to ascertain their suitability for the English market. The oranges were submitted to experts in London, who reported that the fruit had been gathered too soon, and was of poor appearance and quality. They agree that it is unlikely that Gambia oranges would be saleable on the English market unless fruit of considerably better quality and appearance could be shipped at a time which would enable consignments to reach this country before the large arrivals of Spanish oranges.

Guinea corn.—Specimens of guinea corn grown in the Gambia from Egyptian seed were found to be of excellent quality. This variety of guinea corn appears to be suitable for introduction into the Gambia, and careful experiments on a small scale were recommended with this object.

A number of new exhibits from the Gambia, which were received during the year have been added to the West African Court in the public galleries of the Imperial Institute, and descriptive labels prepared for them. A catalogue of the Gambia exhibits was published in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute," Vol. V. (1907), No. 4, and is now on sale.

Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, the Superintendent of Agriculture for West Africa, has been in constant communication with the Imperial Institute on all matters connected with agricultural operations and development, and has transmitted numerous specimens of economic products for examination at the Imperial Institute.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	1906
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	〃
544	Barbados	〃
545	Trinidad and Tobago	〃
546	Grenada	〃
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	〃
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	〃
551	Northern Nigeria	〃
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	〃
557	East Africa Protectorate	〃
558	Uganda Protectorate	〃
559	Swaziland	〃
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	〃
562	Falkland Islands	〃
563	Gibraltar	〃
564	Ashanti	〃
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	〃
568	Bermuda	〃
569	Weihaiwei	〃
570	Hong Kong	〃
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	〃
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	〃

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey (1904–5)
47	Do. do.	Do. (1905–6)
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Bechuanaland Area.

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GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 576.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1909.

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MAP.

MAR 14 1910
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No. 609.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 576.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
29th June, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, in manuscript, the Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1908, together with a report on it by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. F. B. Archer.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.

(14049—2.) Wt. 26122—322. 1125. 9/09. D & S, A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1908.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The total revenue for the year amounted to £57,898, or an increase on the estimated revenue, £57,731, of £167. The receipts show a falling off of £7,994 as compared with those of 1907; but this reduction was anticipated owing to the large stock of goods in the hands of the mercantile houses and to the fact that the ground-nut crop was expected to be a small one. As the revenue actually collected slightly exceeded the estimate it will be seen that very accurate information had been obtained in assessing the Colony's receipts for the year under report. The years 1906 and 1907 were abnormal ones as regards revenue in this Colony, and although 1908 was not, it is to be regretted, up to the average for the past three years, it was well in advance of the receipts for any preceding year.

2. The following figures show the net revenue for the ten years ending 31st December, 1908:—

Year.	Amount. £
1899	46,840
1900	49,161
1901	43,726
1902	51,016
1903	55,564
1904	54,180
1905	51,868
1906	65,430
1907	65,892
1908	57,898

3. The increases which are recorded were chiefly—

Under "Licences," £98, due to a greater number of trading licences issued. They in a measure balance the loss in 1907.

Under "Rent of Government Property," £7, due to increased market dues collected. Bathurst market has during the past five years been practically remodelled, and is now as good as any market on the West Coast.

Under "Land Sales," £64, due to the additional number of vacant lots disposed of in Bathurst.

Under "Miscellaneous Receipts," £171, due to adjustment of Public Works "Material and Stores," and Sales of condemned property.

The decreases were chiefly:—

Under "Customs," £7,984, which covers practically the entire difference between the revenue for the year 1907 and that under report, and was on account of the large stock of goods in the Colony and the reduced quantity of ground-nuts exported, on which there is a duty of 6*s*. 8*d*. per ton.

Under the heads "Port Dues" (£17) and "Protectorate" (£123), due to the smallness of the ground-nut crop during the year. The export of a large crop naturally means more steamers calling at Bathurst and more port dues, and also attracts strange farmers and other to British territory who pay revenue to the Protectorate in the form of hut tax, farm rents, depasturage fees, &c.

Under "Post Office," £61, due to a reduction in the sale of stamps and in the commission on money orders. The sale of money orders during the past year or so has fallen off, due to the increased numbers of bills of exchange issued by the local bank.

4. The amount of revenue received under Customs was:—

Import duty £33,410, export duty £10,654, making up the total £44,064.

5. The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1907 and 1908 with their respective increases and decreases:—

Heads of Receipts.	1907.	1908.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ad Valorem	6,567	5,820	—	747
Wine	1,006	1,070	64	—
Spirits	5,046	5,348	302	—
Malt Liquor	149	107	—	42
Tobacco	5,094	3,297	—	1,797
Oils and Turps	691	727	36	—
Sugar	2,408	2,572	164	—
Kola Nuts	12,695	11,312	—	1,383
Rice	3,560	1,960	—	1,600
Guns and Pistols	214	270	56	—
Powder	98	115	17	—
Salt	655	407	—	248
Kerosene	240	397	157	—
Coffee, Raw	6	8	2	—
Total	38,429	33,410	798	5,817
Exports—				
Ground nuts	13,619	10,654	—	2,965
	52,048	44,064	798	8,782

6. The expenditure for the year amounted to £61,097, an increase of £2,490 over the estimated expenditure of £58,607, but it is only fair to record that an unforeseen liability in respect of the extensive repairs to the Government Yacht "Mansah Kilah" which proceeded to Grand Canary to undergo her refit, amounted to no less a sum than £3,658. Again it was necessary to incur the very heavy expenditure of £4,094 during the year on special repairs to the military barracks.

7. The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Governor (£273).—Due to leave arrangements of staff and increased travelling found necessary in the Protectorate during the year—there was a saving on the estimate for 1907.

Customs (£128).—Due to purchase of a new buoy and cable complete.

Legal Department (£279).—Due to the amalgamation of the Legal Assistnat's Department with that of the Chief Magistrate. Under decreases, however, it will be seen that there was a saving of £652, or an actual reduced expenditure for the year of £372. The appointment of Attorney-General has been abolished, the Crown Law Officer being now styled "Legal Assistant."

Education (£263).—Due to earnings by the denominational schools at the supplementary examination for the lower standards held in June, in accordance with the Educational Rules of the 6th May, 1908, and to the salary of the Inspector of Schools of £160 being placed under the vote for Education. The Inspector of Schools is also Legal Assistant.

Medical (£250).—Due to the increments of the medical officers and to the salaries of the additional staff found necessary.

Government Vessels (£4,170).—Due to the extensive repairs to the Government Yacht.

Agriculture (£413).—Due to a special grant to the Roman Catholic Mission for an Agricultural School, where lads of all denominations are to be trained in agriculture and farming.

Public Works Extraordinary (£3,283).—Due to repairs to Military Barracks.

8. The principal decreases were as under:—

Pensions (£277).—Due to the death of three pensioners during the year.

Protectorate (£967).—Ground-nut seed issued to the people in 1907 paid for during 1908. This is not in reality a liability to the Government, as it is accounted for under revenue receipts.

Frontier Force (£237).—Due to the Force being re-armed with magazine rifles during 1907.

Miscellaneous (£246).—Due to the grant of a special gratuity of £250 to the Anglican Church Body to pay off the balance of debt on the Church building.

Public Works Recurrent (£3,514).—Due to special repairs to the Chief Magistrate's quarters during 1907.

9. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the past ten years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	46,840 ...	30,405
1900	49,161 ...	29,818
1901	43,726 ...	48,518
1902	51,016 ...	51,536
1903	55,564 ...	67,504
1904	54,179 ...	52,300
1905	51,868 ...	72,297
1906	65,430 ...	56,988
1907	65,892 ...	57,729
1908	57,898 ...	61,097

10. The only additional taxation introduced during the year was under Ordinance No. 1 of 1908, by which the duty on spirits of a standard strength of 50 degrees was raised from four shillings to four shillings and twopence the liquid gallon. In the same enactment the method of calculating the strength of spirits was changed from the English system of proof ascertained by Sykes' hydrometer to the Continental one of degrees of alcohol by Tralles' alcoholometer, the rate of duty being fixed at 1*d*. the degree, 30 degrees paying a minimum of 2*s*. 6*d*., and every degree over paying an additional 1*d*. per degree.

11. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1908, was £40,310, as compared with £43,486 18*s*. 6*d*. at the close of 1907, a decrease of £3,176. The cost of the repairs to the Government Yacht—unforeseen expenditure—is responsible for this reduction.

The surplus funds are invested in Government securities.

12. The Colony has no public debt.

13. The legal tender and usual currency is British sterling, but a great number of French 5-franc pieces are in circulation, the estimated value of which is £150,000, and these are received at an exchange value of 3*s*. 10½*d*. For trade purposes, however, they realise 4*s*. each. Bank of England notes are not legal tender, but are accepted by the Bank of British West Africa—the only bank in Bathurst. The circulation, however, is very small, amounting probably to only some £250. There is also a little French gold in the Colony.

14. The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was one per cent.

15. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony and Protectorate is estimated at £261,050, made up as follows:—Bank of England notes (£250), British gold (£750), British silver (£110,000), French gold (£50), and French 5-francs (£150,000).

16. During the year specie was imported to the value of £145,290, as compared with £149,368 in 1907, and £102,480 was exported as against £117,828 in the same year. The decrease must be presumed to be on account of the small ground-nut crop.

17. There are only two Boards of a Municipal nature in the Colony, namely the Board of Health and the McCarthy Square Board.

18. The Board of Health consists of the Senior Medical Officer and the Colonial Engineer, who are ex-officio members, with the Senior Medical Officer as Chairman. The Superintendent of Police, a medical officer, and two leading members of the native community are also nominated members, and in addition to the above, the Joloffs and Mandingoes each have a representative, whose duty it is to advise what are the requirements of these important races; they are also responsible for seeing that the directions of the Board are clearly made known to the people.

19. The Board meets fortnightly and is responsible for the sanitary condition of Bathurst. Its revenue is derived from (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town at the rate of three per cent; (2) from fees collected at the

slaughter-house; and (3) from a grant-in-aid from the Government.

20. The following was the revenue received during the year:—Local rates, £645; slaughter-house, £98; grant-in-aid, £400; sale of stores, £4; total, £1,147.

The expenditure for the same period was:—Salaries, £102; cleaning drains and streets, &c., £471; lighting of streets, £153; carts and horses, £104; miscellaneous, £243; total, £1,073.

21. The officers of the Board of Health consist of a clerk, two inspectors of nuisances, four lamp-lighters, one groom and two cart-men. Twenty permanent labourers were employed during the year: but in the wet season as many as fifty-five were engaged, cutting down long grass, filling up depressions in the roads, and removing receptacles in which mosquitoes might deposit larvæ.

22. During the year the carts of the Board (there are two carts and four horses employed) removed 950 cart-loads of refuse, &c. The inspectors make daily house-to-house visits, and 128 notices were served for abatement of nuisances.

23. The market has an inspector, who is at present the Superintendent of Police, and also a clerk, and without doubt it is one of the best to be found anywhere on the Coast. It is well kept, and is provided with stalls specially marked out for the various kinds of goods from those of European manufacture to native produce. One of the medical officers visits the market daily for the purpose of seeing if the food tendered for sale is in good condition.

24. The slaughter-house is an iron structure built out into the river on piles, and is approached by a pier. Two labourers are employed to wash down and keep the place clean and the work is satisfactorily performed.

25. Suitable latrines are provided in various convenient places in the town, and these are kept clean by a contractor, who is under the control of the Board of Health.

26. The streets of Bathurst are lighted by kerosene oil lamps.

27. The drains of the town are cleaned and inspected daily.

28. McCarthy Square, which covers roughly three and a half acres, is situated in the centre of the town, and was enclosed in 1905 and placed under separate management. It is utilized by the public as a recreation ground and by the Government as a parade ground for the West African Frontier Force; the upkeep of the Square is provided by a grant which in 1908 was £125.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

29. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £390,740, as against £445,359 in 1907, a decrease of £54,619. The imports of specie amounted to £145,290 and the value exported was £102,480.

30. The following table shows the imports classified so as to distinguish commercial imports from Government imports and specie for each of the five years 1904-1908.

COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

Return of Imports, 1904-1908.

Year.	Free Imports.		Specific.		*Ad valorem.*		Total.		Specie.	Grand Total
	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904 ..	6,254	520	80,473	190	106,807	3,186	193,534	3,896	108,719	306,149
1905 ..	3,112	237	75,488	265	99,865	2,757	178,465	3,260	123,456	305.181
1903 ..	5,037	1,256	109,527	230	149,389	15,050	263,953	16,536	167,168	447,657
1907 ..	3,933	2,158	140,799	462	144.209	4,430	288,941	7,050	149,368	445.359
1908 ..	869	510	104,250	409	133,226	6,186	238,345	7,105	145,290	390,740

31. The decrease in the imports is due principally to the falling off in the value of cotton goods imported during the year and the large reduction in the quantity of rice brought into the Colony. The value of the cotton goods amounted to £68,871, as against £82,023 in 1907, and the value of rice imported in 1908 was £34,125 less than in 1907. The only explanation which can be offered in respect of the appreciable reduction in these imports is, that the crop of ground-nuts during the 1907-8 season was very small, and that consequently a reduced number of strange farmers, &c., came into the Protectorate. The ground-nut crop in the Gambia—its staple product—means everything. In must also be recorded that the 1908 crop of native-grown corn was a very good one, and as it is produced entirely for local consumption as much rice was not required by the people as would have been the case had there been less corn.

32. Of the cotton goods imported £57,262 in value came from Great Britain and £11,609 from other countries. The valuation of rice is fairly evenly divided.

33. The following return shows the principal articles of import for the years 1907 and 1908:—

Articles.	Quantity		Value.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.		
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton goods...	3,449	3,526	82,023	68,871	--	13,152
	lbs.	lbs.				
Tobacco ...	294,664	185,260	8,249	5,937	—	2,312
	lbs.	lbs.				
Kola nuts ...	1,015,474	905,045	39,942	39,794	—	148
	Galls.	Galls.				
Spirits ...	25,175	27,334	4,872	5,247	375	—
	Galls.	Galls.				
Wine	18,514	20,065	2,156	2,002	—	154
	cwts.	cwts.				
Sugar	5,181	5,490	4,655	4,838	183	—
	tons.	tons.				
Salt	2,622	1,627	2,211	1,378	—	833
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder ...	236	239	502	648	146	—
	cwts.	cwts.				
Rice	141,882	78,395	71,889	37,764	—	34,125

34. The decrease in tobacco is due to the large importations during 1907, the current year's decrease practically amounting to the value of the excess of this article imported during the preceding year. The same reason can be applied to the reduction in the quantity of salt imported during 1908.

35. The duty collected on kola nuts was less by £1,382 than in 1907, but their actual retail value showed an increase, as the crop, which is imported from the Colony of Sierra Leone, was not as large as usual and prices were accordingly higher.

36. Of the total value of imports exclusive of specie, 53½ per cent. came from Great Britain, 37½ per cent. came from France, 4 per cent. came from Germany, and 5 per cent. came from other countries.

37. The following return shows the total quantity, value, &c., of spirits of all kinds imported into the Colony during the past five years :—

Article.	1904.				1905.				1906.				1907.				1908.			
	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.
	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£
Alcohol	10	1		1	3	1		1	—	—		—	—	—		—	13	3		—
Brandy	126	88		26	147	136		32	180	139		37	279	187		58	180	138		38
Gin (unsweetened) ...	11,522	2,071	4s. per gallon.	2,304	10,227	1,590	4s. per gallon.	2,047	22,011	3,662	4s. per gallon.	4,406	11,820	2,011	4s. per gallon.	2,366	17,206	2,928	4s. and 4s. 2d. per gallon.	3,157
Rum	5,805	502		1,164	5,790	606		1,159	20,822	1,651		4,169	8,664	896		1,736	5,307	586		1,194
Spirit (sweetened) ...	2,055	648		414	2,269	687		452	2,967	847		606	2,690	852		543	3,323	936		683
Whisky	1,033	557		204	969	541		187	1,336	675		264	1,722	926		343	1,305	656		276
Total	20,551	3,867		4,113	19,405	3,561		3,878	47,316	6,974		9,482	25,175	4,872		5,046	27,334	5,247		5,348

38. The import of spirits during the year 1905 as will be seen was less than that in 1904 by 1,146 gallons, the decrease in a measure being due, it is thought, to the increased duty of 12½ per cent. which was imposed.

39. In 1906, however, there was an abnormal increase in the quantity of spirits imported. The only explanation which can be afforded is that trade was exceedingly brisk and that there was a great number of strangers in the Protectorate. The revenue during 1906 was the second largest ever recorded in the history of the Colony and a great quantity of trade gin was imported.

40. The increased importation of rum was due to a British schooner arriving from the West Indies with a "speculative" cargo, which was bought cheaply by the merchants.

41. In the year 1907, although the total revenue was large the duty derived from spirits fell off by no less a sum than £4,436, being 13 per cent. of the total revenue. The quantity imported was less by nearly 20,000 gallons than in 1906, and this is accounted for by the fact that during that year the mercantile houses overstocked themselves.

42. During the year under report the trade has somewhat recovered itself, the duties paid having increased by £524, but the fact must not be lost sight of that the duty payable has again been increased by twopence per gallon as pointed out under the heading "taxation."

43. The Gambia as a whole is very abstemious. It is a rare thing in the Protectorate to see a drunken man, and when the liquor trade is analysed it becomes an admitted fact that the consumption of alcohol in this country is very small, being very little more than one pint per head per annum.

44. The total value of exports for the year was £374,138, as against £408,476 in 1907.

45. The following return shows the principal articles of export with their values:—

Exports.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.		
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts	40,858	31,964	256,685	245,084	—	11,601
	lbs.	lbs.				
Rubber	61,405	18,568	5,686	1,163	—	4,523
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels	342	391	3,657	3,488	—	169
	lbs.	lbs.				
Wax	53,408	73,469	2,325	3,036	711	—
	No.	No.				
Hides	30,647	31,680	9,615	6,633	—	2,982

46. The decrease on ground-nuts was due to a short crop, but prices during the year ruled better than in 1907.

The decrease in rubber was due to a less quantity being brought into the Colony from the Casamance. The French Government have recently made stringent rules prohibiting the taking of rubber across the frontier, and there is very little grown in the Gambia.

47. Of the total exports exclusive of specie for the year, 16½ per cent. went to Great Britain, 73½ per cent. went to France, 2 per cent. went to Germany, 3 per cent. went to Holland, and 5 per cent. went to other countries.

48. The destination of the ground-nuts was as follows:—

	Tons.	Value.
Great Britain	773	£8,238
Denmark	1,104	6,622
Germany	1,115	8,364
France	26,601	204,888
Holland	1,755	11,729
Portugal	609	5,176
Other Countries ...	7	67
	31,964	£245,084

Only the picked nuts go to Great Britain.

Manufactures and Fisheries.

49. There are no mines in the Colony; but in several places in the Protectorate iron ore is found in large quantities, and it might be worth while for an expert to examine these deposits in a private capacity. Investigations properly undertaken might disclose other mineral wealth.

50. A small quantity of cotton is grown, but only for local consumption, and it is made into native cloths, known as pagns. The weaving is very primitive, native looms of an ingenious kind being used and the cloth woven in long strips. In quality this cloth compares favourably with imported Manchester cotton cloths. The strips of native cloth average about 27 yards in length and are about 9 inches in width.

51. There is a good deal of boat building and repairing carried out. Most of the cutters used in the ground-nut trade have been built in the Colony, and there are a number of expert shipwrights in Bathurst.

52. Pottery is made in the Upper River Province. A considerable amount of excellent leather is produced from goats' skins. It is, however, not exported but utilized by the people in making bags, slippers, sandals, scabbards, saddles, and horse trappings, and the skilful manner in which coloured grasses, silk, cotton, &c., are laced through the decorative portion of the leather work is most ingenious. Each town or village usually has a "Koranka" man, or leather worker.

53. There is an abundance of fish in the lower reaches of the Gambia River, and large quantities are dried and taken each season to the Protectorate.

54. At Oyster Creek, from the Bridge, when the tide is coming in, literally myriads of fine fish can be seen, and it might be supposed that an angler's paradise existed there; but sport is not good. The water apparently is full of natural food, and the fish, except in a lazy way, will not look at artificial bait. Nearly all the fish brought into Bathurst are caught in nets. Quantities of oysters are obtained in the Creek, and are cooked by the people for food, the shells being made into native lime.

Agricultural Industries, &c.

55. The ground-nut is the staple article of cultivation, the people devoting their whole attention to this product growing, in comparison, but small quantities of rice and corn for their own consumption. Cotton has been tried in the Gambia and does well, but the population of this country is not large enough to cope with side issues, so to speak. Ground-nuts pay the producer on an average £4 to £5 per acre, and beyond the sowing of the seed and an occasional weeding give the farmer very little trouble, and he knows that there will be no difficulty in at once disposing of his crop, and he therefore prefers cultivating them to any other economic product known to him.

56. The Government in July issued over 500 tons of seed nuts to the people for planting, advanced by the five principal firms, and the export during 1909 will, it is thought, be the largest ever known; but to this I must add that nothing can be more uncertain than the ground-nut crop which means so much in this country. Prices in Senegal ruled slightly better in 1907 than in the Gambia, the consequence being that a less number of strange farmers crossed the frontier to seek their fortunes in British territory. The seed-nuts are planted as a rule just after the first rains about the end of June, and towards the end of October the farmers begin to pull the nuts.

57. Although the cereal crop was fairly good during the year the shortage in the ground-nut crop more than equalized matters as far as food products were concerned, and the consequence was that from certain districts appeals were made for issues of rice by the Government on credit. Money was short in the Protectorate, and therefore as far as possible deserving cases met with relief.

58. The following are the principal cereals grown in the Colony:

African Millet or Koos is cultivated on a large scale by the natives and forms their staple food; there are various kinds of koos.

The small koos is known as "Suna" and "Sanior," and a large koos as "Basse"; there is also another species known as "Kinto," which is really a Guinea corn, and "Finde" which is the seed derived from a special grass and makes an excellent

dish when steamed. All the varieties except "Finde" have to be pounded in mortars to a flour and are then prepared as food in various ways.

Maize.—Indian corn grows well, but is only cultivated in small quantities. The Government for the past year or two have been distributing maize seed to encourage the people to grow it.

Cassava or "Manioc" is largely grown. It is a shrub and the large tuberous roots when cooked form an important article of the peoples' food.

59. There is in Bathurst a fair supply of vegetables such as garden eggs, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, ochras, cassada, peppers, native spinaches, &c., and as most of the Europeans have a garden of sorts it is possible to procure lettuces, cabbages, carrots, turnips, and beans from December to May.

60. As far as fruit is concerned, pawpaws, limes, oranges, bananas, and mangoes are obtainable.

61. A great number of medicinal roots and herbs are to be found in the Gambia. The following are a few which are commonly in use:—

Gegis.—It is soaked and drunk as a cure for internal maladies.

Foot.—It is pounded into a powder and applied to reduce any swelling—the smell of this root is detested by snakes.

Sengeng.—Used as a blood purifier, the people maintain it has the same effects as quinine. It is boiled and taken internally.

Hallo or Hie, the bark of the mahogany tree—it is soaked in hot water and used for cleaning sores, &c.

Bonæfallah when boiled and used internally is considered by the people a preventive against yellow fever.

Arjuma Sato used in female ailments—it is boiled and taken internally.

Kobolikobolo used for internal pains, has to be boiled and the liquid drunk.

Kemo is used for chest troubles.

Sankimo is boiled and taken internally for abdominal pains.

Wallo is boiled and steamed and used when hot to clean the mouth as a preventive against toothache.

Bancoono is boiled and taken internally as a cure for venereal disease.

Barra Sowo is boiled and taken internally. It is supposed to have a counteracting effect to the bite of the tsetse fly.

Marchaddo is boiled and taken as a blood purifier.

Santarra is boiled and taken as a nerve tonic.

Garden or bush tea can be obtained in large quantities. It is treated exactly like ordinary tea and is taken by the people medicinally to produce perspiration and reduce temperature in fever.

Specimens of the above roots are to be seen at the Gambia Section of the Imperial Institute.

62. Samples of mangrove bark have been examined and found to contain about 25 per cent. of tannin. It produces a dye which is greatly used by the people. Large quantities are obtainable.

63. During the year an agricultural school and farm subsidized by the Government and managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, although strictly undenominational, has been started at Abuko, some few miles from Bathurst, and it is hoped that when the farm is in proper working order, daily consignments of produce will be sent in to the market.

64. The Government at considerable expense has imported some fine Ayrshire bulls with the hope of improving the breed of cattle in this country, but so far the experiment cannot be said to promise well.

65. The timber of the Gambia is small and with very few exceptions cannot be considered worth exporting. Very little is used annually, only what is required for repairing cutters and boats being felled.

There are a great number of Rhun palm trees in the country. The timber of this tree is of a fibrous nature and is utilised for rough works, such as piles for bridges and wharves.

66. Very fair fibres can be obtained, and it is thought that the preparation of Piassava or African bass by any enterprising firm or individual, with a little capital, would be found remunerative.

67. The value of land in the important parts of Bathurst has greatly increased of late years, and it is impossible to accurately estimate the worth of it if in the main thoroughfare. In the adjoining streets for land, up to datum as fixed by the Colonial Engineer, £200 per acre would probably be a fair price.

68. In the back streets plots fetch £12, and in the outlying portion of the town without any filling up they are worth from £4 to £8.

69. Land in the Protectorate can be obtained from the Chief of a district for purposes of farming with the sanction of the Governor, but sites for trading factories are granted by the Government at an annual rental of 1*s*. per 100 square yards, with a minimum payment of £3 per annum.

Shipping.

70. The total tonnage for the year was 418,441 tons, made up as follows:—

	Tons.
Steam vessels	413,683
Sailing vessels	4,758

71. The following gives in detail the total tonnage and nationality of the shipping for the years 1907 and 1908.

Nationality of Vessels.	1907.			1908.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	304,261	242	304,503	300,827	460	301,287
French	61,956	1,903	63,859	45,882	1,908	47,790
German	40,422	—	40,422	25,870	—	25,870
Russian	9,038	—	9,038	4,392	—	4,392
American ...	—	1,442	1,442	—	1,130	1,130
Norwegian ...	18,722	—	18,722	2,690	—	2,690
Portuguese ...	740	830	1,570	—	1,036	1,036
Danish	9,204	—	9,204	19,322	—	19,322
Swedish	—	—	—	1,688	224	1,912
Greek	5,024	—	5,024	13,012	—	13,012
Dutch	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	449,367	4,417	453,784	413,683	4,758	418,441

III.—LEGISLATION.

72. Fifteen Ordinances were passed during the year. The more important were:—

No. 1 "An Ordinance to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1905."

Under this enactment the old system of calculating the strength of spirits from a fixed point known as proof was done away with, the Continental method of assessing the amount of alcohol by the degree being substituted for it. The standard of strength is fixed at 50 degrees, but in the case of spirits other than brandy and whisky an allowance of 1*d*. per degree is made for every degree of less strength than standard strength, such allowance ceasing when the strength is reduced to 30 degrees. In a similar manner, upon all spirits of greater strength than 50 degrees an extra penny per degree is collected.

No. 3. "An Ordinance to empower the Chief Magistrate to make Rules of Court for the Supreme Court of the Colony of the Gambia."

For regulating the sittings of the Court, the pleading, practice, and procedure of the Court and the admission and enrolment of barristers, advocates, solicitors, and notaries, &c.

No. 15. "An Ordinance to make further provision with regard to the conveyance of postal matter by sea."

The object of this enactment is to compel the carriage of postal matter by contract vessels at a fixed remuneration.

IV.—EDUCATION.

73. There is no Government school in the Colony, education being denominational. There are, however, eight primary schools in the Colony and Protectorate:—five in Bathurst, one at Kommbo, and one at McCarthy Island. Seven of them were established by, and are under the management of, the Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic denominations. The eighth school known as the Mohammedan school originated with the Government, who pay the teachers. It is administered by a Board of Management of which the Governor is chairman, the eight members being leading Mohammedans.

74. In addition to the above there is a Technical School, with 15 pupils. It is under the management of the Wesleyan Mission and an annual grant of £300 from the Government is given in respect of it.

75. 504 children were presented at the annual examination, and of this number 312 passed the standards.

76. In addition to the annual examination a supplementary examination for the sub-standards and standards I., II., III. is now held in June in each year, and in 1908 312 children were presented at it, of whom 199 passed.

77. The Technical school was first opened in 1903. Suitable boys are taken at it under indenture for five years and receive first rate technical and general instruction under a European instructor. The following trades are specially taught: carpentry and joinery, brickmaking, iron work. Contract work is carried out at reasonable prices. At the end of a boy's apprenticeship he receives a certificate of proficiency and tools to the value of £5. Several good workmen have already passed through the school and are now employed by the Government.

78. The income of the several schools in Bathurst was as under:—

School.	Fees.	Amount collected by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Anglican	33	160	275	468
Wesleyan	68	243	221	532
Roman Catholic ...	32	382	350	764
Mohammedan... ...	11	35	120	166
Total ...	144	820	966	1,930

79. The grants to the Anglican and Roman Catholic schools include the Government grant of £150 per annum for a European superintendent for each denomination. The Wesleyans have not as yet been able to take advantage of this grant.

80. The expenditure of the schools for the year was:—

School.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School materials.	Salaries.	Other expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Anglican... ...	—	9	58	393	8	468
Wesleyan ...	30	3	20	488	3	544
Roman Catholic	5	52	65	636	6	764
Mohammedan ...	—	—	—	136	—	136
Total ...	35	64	143	1,653	17	1,912

81. The Mohammedan school was established in 1903 and has 110 children on its register, 14 less than last year. The average attendance was 70. Out of 59 children who were presented for examination only 17 passed. This is probably due to the want of a competent teacher, but great difficulty is experienced in getting suitable teachers for this school. English and arithmetic are taught for three days of the week and Arabic on the other days.

When the school was first started the Protectorate Chiefs were asked to send their sons to Bathurst to be educated at it. At the commencement some difficulty was experienced in getting them to recognize the benefits which the future generation would derive from improved education, but latterly there has been no trouble on this score and the Chiefs are now ready and willing to fall in with the views of the Government. The boys from the Protectorate are placed in charge of a well-known local Mohammedan and are well cared for. The Government pays 20*s.* a month for each boy.

The children are doing very well, and most of them, although only at school a short time, can read and write, and as they are being carefully trained and looked after, they ought eventually to be of material assistance to the people of the districts from which they come.

The school is well equipped in furniture and appliances.

82. The only secondary school in the Colony is the High School under the Wesleyan Missionary Society. The number on the register is 23. The school fees amounted to £53 and voluntary contributions towards the expenditure to £68.

83. There was an increase of 16 children on the school registers as compared with the year 1907.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

84. There is a well-equipped hospital in Bathurst containing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class wards for men. There is also a hospital for women in a separate building adjoining it.

85. There are three medical officers and four European nursing sisters attached to the hospitals with a native staff, comprising a chief dispenser with four assistants and dressers; also three male native nurses, a female nurse and the other necessary servants.

86. Great improvements have been carried out during the past few years in this institution and our hospital is now as good as any on the West African coast. There is excellent out-patient accommodation and a well equipped operating theatre and laboratory.

87. At McCarthy's Island a dispensary, which is much appreciated by the Protectorate people, has been opened. But a short time ago the greatest difficulty was experienced in getting the natives to go to hospital as they prefered their own medicine and treatment; this has all changed now, however, and they readily attend—so readily that it has been suggested that those out-patients who can afford to do so should pay for treatment.

88. The dispensary at McCarthy's Island has been such a success that the advisability of having a hospital with a resident medical officer at that station is being considered, it being thought that persons in the Protectorate who cannot come to Bathurst would in this way receive more direct attention than it is possible for the Protectorate Medical Officer, who travels through the various districts and naturally cannot remain any length of time at one particular place, to give them. The appointment of a special medical officer for the Protectorate has been most beneficial. During the year under report no less than 1,422 patients were attended by him.

89. Two miles from Bathurst there is an excellent contagious diseases hospital. It is divided into two wards, capable of accommodating, if necessity should arise, four patients each. During the year five cases of small-pox were successfully treated at it.

90. The European nursing sisters are from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny in Paris, and are well trained, and their devotion to their duties is unceasing. Their presence in the hospital has done much to increase the popularity of that institution with the people. They are always available for duty and live in a special bungalow in the hospital grounds.

91. The accommodation in the wards is as follows:—first class ward—men, 4 beds; second class ward—men, 10 beds; third class ward—men, 24 beds; and female ward, 12 beds.

92. The total number of patients admitted into the hospital during the year was 593, or 33 more than in 1907.

93. The following table shows the number of patients in the hospital during the year:—

—	Remaining in Hospital on 31st December, 1907.	Admitted during the Year.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1908.
Europeans	1	23	2	—
Natives	11	435	25	16
Civil Police	1	52	—	1
West African Frontier Force.	3	70	—	1
Syrians	—	13	2	—
Total	16	593	29	18

94. Of the 29 deaths in the hospital, 1 was from remittent fever, 1 from black-water fever, 9 from chest troubles, and 1 from trypanosomiasis. Of the remaining 17 no less than four succumbed to tetanus.

95. The out-patients treated were as follows:—

—	New cases	Old cases.	Total.
Males	4,141	6,790	10,931
Females	2,575	1,328	3,903
Total	6,716	8,118	14,834

In 1907 the number of out-patients treated was only 11,893.

96. There are some 132 Europeans in the Colony and of this number two died from climatic causes. One case was in the Protectorate, that of a Roman Catholic Father who had been in West Africa a great many years—the other was a mercantile clerk who had only been resident in the Colony a few months.

97. Vaccination, as in past years, was vigorously carried out. In Bathurst there were 1,188 cases, of which 1,164 were successful, and in the Protectorate the Commissioners and the Protectorate Medical Officer dealt with some four thousand cases. There was very little small-pox reported from the Protectorate during the year. The people are beginning to appreciate vaccination and are grasping the fact that it is preferable to their old system of inoculation from which at least half of those operated on contracted virulent small-pox and died.

98. There is a Government savings bank, under the management of the Treasurer. At the close of the year there were 417 accounts as against 369 in 1907. The amount remaining on deposit was £3,917. During the year £7,799 was dealt with. The amount withdrawn by depositors was £3,882, and the interest payable was £103.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

99. The duties and powers of the police force are confined to the Colony and they can only be sent into the Protectorate under special authority from the Governor. There is, however, an exception, the police station at McCarthy's Island, where a sergeant and three constables are stationed.

100. The authorized strength of the force for the year was one European superintendent, one European assistant superintendent, and 70 non-commissioned officers and men.

101. The force is equipped with a Merryweather "India Office" pattern manual fire-engine, capable of pumping 136 gallons a minute. There were only seven small fires during the year, the damage caused by them being reported as amounting to £73 in value. This is remarkable in a town like Bathurst where there are a great many native huts thatched with grass, in which only cheap oil lamps and candles are used by the occupants.

102. There is only one prison in the Colony, and that is an old building not altogether as satisfactory as it might be. It answers all requirements however as to accommodation, and is kept scrupulously clean; but owing to one or two cases of beriberi which have occurred there, it is thought that it ought to be removed altogether from its present site. The cause of the outbreaks of beri-beri has not been definitely decided as yet. The diet scale has been amended, the quantity of rice given to prisoners being reduced to a minimum; and it is hoped that this will bring about an improvement in their health.

103. The interior of the prison is very well kept, and there is a good infirmary.

104. In the men's portion there are fifteen large and well ventilated cells, with four associated wards; while on the women's side there are two associated wards and one separate cell.

105. The daily average number of prisoners was 23·89 as compared with 19·42 in 1907. The increase is accounted for by a greater number of prisoners from the Protectorate during the year, and to a number of short sentence prisoners being committed from the West African Frontier Force.

106. There was only one death in the prison in 1908—dysentery being the cause.

107. Gangs are employed outside on Government works, such as breaking stones, cleaning compounds, &c., and their earnings in 1908 were computed at £171, whilst the expenditure amounted to £812.

108. There was no corporal punishment inflicted during the year.

109. The total number of cases brought before the police court was 204, as against 268 in 1907. The majority, however, of the cases were of a trivial nature resulting in summary convictions. There were only 12 cases committed for trial, and in five of these a nolle prosequi was entered. A murder was committed by a

Spaniard who has since been certified as insane, and there was one case of manslaughter.

110. In the Protectorate 551 cases were dealt with summarily by the native courts and the Commissioners—the majority of the charges being special offences under the Protectorate Ordinance.

111. There were 15 cases committed for trial at the Supreme Court, Bathurst, six of which resulted in a nolle prosequi being entered.

112. From the Kommbo and Fogni Province there was one charge of murder, but the prisoner died before he could be brought to trial. There were also two cases of robbery with violence against one man, who was convicted and sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

113. From the North Bank Province there was one case of manslaughter, in which a conviction was obtained and a sentence of seven years' imprisonment imposed.

114. The absence of serious crime in both the Colony and the Protectorate is remarkable and most satisfactory. The Chiefs and Headmen who form the native tribunals carry out their duties very well and give little or no trouble, and each year shows improvement.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

115. The last census was taken in 1901 and the population was then returned at 8,807 for Bathurst. At this date it can be assumed that, with the additional settlers who have come to St. Mary's Island during the past seven years, that number is below the mark. The population of the Protectorate is roughly 152,000, making a total of nearly 161,000 inhabitants, and it is believed this estimate is a fair one.

116. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 297; this represents a birth rate of 33·7 per 1,000 as against 29·1 in 1907. The deaths registered were 306, and represents a death rate of 34·7 calculated on the census of 1901. It must, however, be remembered that the population of the town is a floating one, and that between planting seasons, *i.e.*, January to May—a large number of labourers and traders come into Bathurst, and in this way the population for the time being is considerably increased.

117. There were 19 marriages solemnized in Bathurst during the year.

118. No deaths occurred among the European Government officials, and the sick rate was not high.

119. There are no less than 40 Friendly Societies registered in Bathurst.

120. The general health of the Colony is excellent. Special attention is given by the Commissioners to the cleanliness of the towns and villages in the Protectorate, and prizes for the cleanest villages in each Province are granted by the Government to encourage the people. The condition of the villages is a great factor towards the health of the inhabitants, and it can be safely stated that the advice given to the Chiefs and Headmen by the Commissioners and the Protectorate Medical Officer when travelling through the districts is having a salutary effect. Small-pox is not nearly so rife as it used to be, and this it may be assumed is due to the numbers who have been vaccinated during the past five years. It is a punishable offence not to report at once an outbreak of small-pox.

121. The town of Bathurst is undoubtedly one of the cleanest on the West Coast of Africa; and as regards sanitary matters it is well looked after by the Board of Health.

122. During the year a series of lectures on hygiene and sanitation was given at the hospital to the school managers and teachers. The various forms of disease common to the country, due to the use of impure water or to living amongst dirty surroundings and under insanitary conditions, were specially dealt with. The intention is that the school children should later on be instructed by their teachers in these matters and that the subject of sanitation should be added to the curriculum of the Government aided schools.

123. The water supply for the Europeans and better class natives is obtained from galvanized iron tanks which fill during the rainy season; but the people who cannot afford these tanks obtain their water from the wells of the town. This is not as satisfactory as it might be, as the well water in Bathurst is none too good towards the latter part of the dry season. The Government has, however, done what it can to improve matters, the expense connected with the provision of an adequate supply of good water being the great obstacle to it. The wells are inspected weekly and the pumps attached to them kept in good working order. New wells are from time to time being sunk in suitable places, as advised by the Board of Health, and the Government are furnishing these wells with Janet's water elevators.

124. The climate of the Gambia during the dry season, from the end of November to the middle of May, is very pleasant and healthy. But during the wet season—June to October—the conditions are much the same as elsewhere on the West Coast of Africa, though the change from excessive dryness to the damp atmosphere so prevalent in the Gulf of Guinea probably makes them more felt.

125. The lowest reading of the thermometer in the shade during 1908 was at Bathurst, 59 degrees in December, the highest recorded temperature being 98 in April, but at McCarthy's Island the shade maximum was 112.

126. The rainfall during the year was 43·54 inches, 9 inches more than 1907. The average rainfall may be taken to be 50 inches. Below will be found the meteorological return for the year:—

Meteorological Return for 1908.

(Bathurst.)

Months.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Winds.	Remarks
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.	
January	55·0	86·6	63·3	23·3	73·2	—	E	
February	58·6	92·0	61·3	30·7	73·6	—	N	
March	59·0	93·6	64·6	29·6	74·4	—	N	
April	59·6	98·0	66·3	31·7	76·9	—	N	
May	53·0	87·6	68·0	19·6	75·9	—	N	
June	49·3	89·6	71·3	18·3	80·1	1·58	Variable	
July	62·6	88·0	71·0	17·0	79·8	9·75	do.	
August	56·3	86·0	61·0	25·0	78·5	24·67	do.	
September	59·3	87·3	72·6	14·7	79·7	5·35	do.	
October	67·6	89·0	71·6	17·4	80·7	2·14	do.	
November	56·0	89·6	68·6	21·0	76·4	—	E	
December	52·0	89·6	59·3	30·3	75·4	·05	E	
Total	688·3	1086·9	798·9	278·6	924·6	43·54	—	
Monthly Average	57·3	90·5	66·5	23·2	77·0	—	—	

VIII.—MAIL, POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

127. Communication between the Colony and Europe is effected by the steamers of the African Steamship Co. (Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co.), which run fortnightly between Liverpool and Bathurst, and those of the Woermann Line from Hamburg which communicate with the Colony once each month; these latter steamers, however, do not call on the homeward passage but proceed direct to Europe from Sierra Leone. There is a French line—the Messageries Maritimes—which sails to and from Bordeaux and Dakar fortnightly, and Dakar being only 90 miles from Bathurst passengers often join these steamers there, and get to Europe in eight days. Again there are the steamers of the Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo, which run between Antwerp and Matadi, calling at Dakar once every three weeks and taking and landing passengers at Southampton.

128. Internal communication is satisfactory, most of the important firms having steamers or launches which make frequent trips during the trading season up the river; these vessels are ready to accept any passengers or freight which may offer. The cost of a passage to McCarthy's Island, 158 miles from Bathurst, is £1 5*s*. first class and 12*s*. deck.

129. The Government yacht "Mansah Kilah" also runs when required, and on ordinary trips takes passengers and freight at the same rates as the other vessels.

Post Office.

130. The rules of the Postal Union have been adopted by the Colony and its Protectorate.

The following are the rates of postage:—

For each letter posted in the Colony for delivery therein or the Protectorate, 1*d*. per 2 oz. in weight.

For each letter addressed to any place in the United Kingdom or British Colonies, which have accepted the penny postage, 1*d*. per oz. or fraction thereof.

For each letter addressed to a foreign country 2½*d*. for the first oz. or fraction thereof.

Parcel Post. If posted at places within the Colony and Protectorate for delivery therein:

For every pound or fraction thereof 3*d*.

If addressed to the United Kingdom or British Colonies in West Africa:

Not over 3 lbs. in weight	1*s*.
Over 3 lbs. but not over 7 lbs.	2*s*.
Over 7 lbs. but not over 11 lbs.	3*s*.

131. There is no direct parcel post scheme at present with foreign countries. All parcels are forwarded through the medium of the General Post Office, London, a small additional charge being made for onward transmission.

132. The revenue for the Post Office is derived principally from the sale of stamps, commission on money and postal orders, and the rent of the private boxes, &c., and in 1908 amounted to £684.

133. The expenditure for the same period was £757 as against £770 in 1907, of which £232 was expended on transit charges outside the Colony.

134. The number of letters and parcels dealt with was 112,056, or 7,455 more than during the preceding year. The value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the year amounted to £4,133.

Telegraphs.

135. Bathurst is in communication with Europe by telegraph cable, the African Direct Telegraph Company having a station on the island. This Company was established in 1886, and the subsidy of £500 per annum granted it for 20 years ceased in September, 1906.

The following are some of the charges for cablegrams:—Between Bathurst and

	s.	*d*.	
Great Britain and Ireland ...	3	6	per word
Ascension	2	0	,,
French Guinea	1	8	,,
Sierra Leone	1	0	,,
Gold Coast	2	2	,,
Dahomey	2	5	,,
Southern Nigeria	2	10	,,

136. In view of the subsidy originally paid, which has now lapsed, Government telegrams are forwarded at half the above rates.

TELEPHONES.

137. There is a Government telephone system in Bathurst, all the principal departments and the Bank of British West Africa being connected with the exchange; as also are the West African Frontier Force Barracks and Lines. There is also a special line to Cape Saint Mary, seven and a half miles from Bathurst, which was completed in 1907.

GENERAL REMARKS.

138. The Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia, the most northerly of the British West African dependencies, is situated as nearly as possible in the north latitude 13° 24′ and 16° 36′ west longitude, and comprises both banks of the River Gambia from the north inland due east to a small village on the north bank some three miles above Koina, where the French sphere of influence is reached. It contains some 5,000 square miles.

139. The Gambia is a great river of Western Africa, falling into the Atlantic Ocean by a large estuary measuring some 27 miles across; but narrowing opposite the town of Bathurst 18 miles distant, to some 2½ miles. Next to the Congo it is probably the safest river to enter on the West African Coast, and among all African rivers it is remarkable for a bar which can be crossed at any time of the tide. At the bar there is never less than 26 feet of water, and, as there is a wide channel for the whole distance, ocean going steamers drawing not more than 13 feet can proceed without trouble right up to McCarthy's Island, 174 miles distant. The charts available are fairly accurate.

140. The town of Bathurst is situated on St. Mary's Island and is the seat of Government, and dates from the year 1814. The Island is a sand-bank about 3½ miles long by a mile and a quarter broad, separated from the main land by a channel called Oyster Creek. The town of Bathurst is an exceptionally clean one, and this fact was specially commented upon by the Commission sent out a short while ago by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

141. The leading mercantile firms possess fine old buildings for their factories, and now that most of the Government buildings have been restored, bungalows built, and McCarthy Square enclosed and laid out, Bathurst, as an African town, certainly impresses visitors favourably.

142. During the last few years an excellent wharf has been erected at the Customs, where ocean-going steamers come alongside.

143. The Colony now practically only consists of the Island of St. Mary. By Section 4 of Ordinance No. 7 passed in 1902, British Kommbo, the Ceded Mile, and McCarthy's Island were placed under the Protectorate system of government. McCarthy's Island is 156 miles distant from Bathurst. During the past few years a great deal of important work has been performed in the Protectorate, which is now in a most tranquil state, no doubt mainly due to the close touch which is kept with native affairs by means of the many tours made through it by the Governor and Travelling Commissioners.

144. A survey of the boundaries dividing the Gambia on the north bank of the river from Senegal, and on the south bank from the Casamance was completed by the Anglo-French Boundary Commission in 1905. The Protectorate extends on both banks of the river for upwards of 300 miles from its mouth.

145. The Island of St. Mary comprises about 2,500 acres, but a large portion is covered by mangrove swamp. The town of Bathurst during the past decade has been greatly improved and new stone buildings are being erected, and the area of the town is gradually extending.

People of the Gambia.

146. The inhabitants are mostly of the negro race, the chief tribes being the Jollofs, Mandingos, Fullahs, and Jolahs. The country of the Jollofs is on the north bank or Senegal side of the river, and they form a large portion of the community in the town of Bathurst. As a race they are very proud and claim for themselves a very ancient descent.

147. The Mandingos are the most numerous people on this portion of the African coast, and derive their name from Manding, a town some 700 miles inland and towards the boundary of the Colony of Sierra Leone. They are mostly Mohammedans.

148. The Jolahs come from Fogni, between the southern limit of Kommbo and on the north bank of the Casamance River. Their country runs in a north-easterly direction towards the south bank of the Gambia River as far as the mouth of the Vintang Creek, some 26 miles from Bathurst. They are pagans and a wild uncivilised tribe.

149. The Fullahs are the "gipsies" of the Gambia, and are good farmers and herdsmen. Their features are more of the European type and their skins fairer than those of the average native of the Gambia. The capital of the Foulah country is Timbo in Futa Jallon, and is situated in north latitude 10° 38′ and west longitude 11° 10′.

Public Works.

150. Mr. A. T. Coode, of the firm of Messrs. Coode, Son, and Matthews, consulting engineers to the Government for certain constructional works, visited the Gambia in November, and in addition to inspecting the Government works which had been

carried out during the past few years specially reported on the proposed slipway for the Colony; the completion of the filling in of a swamp known as Half Die, at the south-eastern end of St. Mary's Island, which work was stopped after £5,483 had been expended on it (it is right to say that the Colony has derived some advantages from this expenditure and that it would be decidedly beneficial to the health of the community if the whole swamp could be filled in; but for financial reasons this is at present impossible); the repairs to the Government wharf which were necessitated by its having been injured by a steamer; the condition and re-construction of certain parts of the bridge over Oyster Creek connecting St. Mary's Island, Bathurst, with the mainland; and the dredging works in operation at Kai Hai and those proposed at the Bruko rocks.

151. The works at Kai Hai which were resumed in 1907, and are for the purpose of deepening the river channel at that place, have steadily progressed during the year. The channel has been properly surveyed, and to a certain extent dredged and marked out, and the dredging operations are still being carried out.

152. It is unfortunate that only for some seven months of the year is it possible to proceed with the work; this is due to the heavy floods that are found in the river from June to October, which render dredging at that time impossible. The consequence is a fresh start has to be made each dry season, and delay naturally takes place in getting the works in full swing again. However, I am glad to be able to report that 4,500 tons of rock and mud were removed from the bed of the channel and deposited on the bank during the year. I may mention that a special crane and grab has this year been procured to facilitate the discharge of the lighters, and it is thought that in 1910 the work will proceed much more rapidly.

153. It is hoped that when the work is completed ocean-going steamers drawing 15 feet to 16 feet will be able to pass through the channel.

154. The cost of the work, including the dredger, a special launch, lighters, and other necessary plant, is estimated at some £18,000. The actual expenditure at the end of 1908 amounted to £14,219.

155. On the completion of the scheme the Government, in agreement with the mercantile firms, will levy an additional rate of 1*s*. per ton on all ground nuts exported from McCarthy's Island and above that place.

156. About one and a half miles up stream from the east end of McCarthy's Island the navigable channel of the Gambia River is confined by a line of rocks, known as the Bruko Rocks, which stretch three-fourths of the way across the river from the north bank. The existing channel is only about 70 yards wide with a minimum depth at low water of ordinary spring tides, of about 11 feet 6 inches, and it is suggested that if these rocks could be removed at a reasonable expenditure, the river might become navigable for ocean-going steamers beyond the Island of McCarthy, at present the furthest port up river for the loading

of such steamers for direct export. Blasting experiments have in a small way been carried out, but as it was found that there would be little if any appreciable difference in the depth of the existing channel without entirely removing the rocks, &c. by dredging, the work has been left in abeyance pending the completion of the Kai Hai dredging operations.

West African Frontier Force Barracks.

157. During the year 1908 the repairs to the officers' quarters, stables, and other out-buildings have been completed at a cost of £4,942.

The Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force possess barracks equal, if not superior, to any on the West African Coast. They were originally built for Imperial troops which were stationed in the Gambia many years ago, but the old buildings had got into a very ruinous condition, and it became necessary to abandon them altogether or expend a very large sum of money in their repair, the latter course being followed by the Government.

Contagious Diseases Hospital.

158. Owing to the close proximity of the West African Frontier Force lines to the old contagious hospital, it was considered, after a fire which took place there, inadvisable to rebuild the institution on the same site; in consequence a new site was selected about two miles from Bathurst, in an open position, and at the cost of £499 an excellent building for the purpose for which it is intended has been erected there.

Drains.

159. In the important thoroughfares of Clarkson, Blucher, Picton, and Anglesea Streets there are large open drains running down the centre of the roadway which were built many years ago for the purpose of carrying away from the Island the water which accumulates during the rainy season. These drains in their open state were found dangerous, and a native in an intoxicated condition having fallen into one of them and lost his life, it was considered necessary to place rails alongside them. This work has now been satisfactorily carried out at a cost of some £400.

Gambia Exhibits at the Franco-British Exhibition.

160. In February, 1908, it was unanimously decided that the Gambia should take part in the great Exhibition held last year in London, and a special committee was appointed to obtain the necessary exhibits which were to be sent to it. Great interest was taken in the matter, not only by members of the committee but by the community generally, who were given an opportunity of inspecting all the specimens before they were despatched to England.

161. The exhibits were:—

Vegetable products.—Rice, millets, maize, palm kernels, cassava, numerous specimens of herbs and roots, cocoa-nuts, *indigo, rubber, gum arabic, fibres, calabash gourds, and seeds.*

Animal products.—Bees-wax, hides, ivory, &c.

Examples of native work.—Gold and silver ornaments, pottery, buildings, furniture, baskets, cane fencing, leather work, woven cloths, canoes, agricultural implements and other utensils, musical instruments, and numerous curios.

162. The total expenditure incurred was £636, and in view of the advertisement gained by the Colony and the impetus it is to be hoped that it will give to trade, it may be considered to have been well incurred. The Commissioner reported that vast numbers of people had an opportunity of inspecting the Gambia exhibits and from the various questions they asked, and the keen manner in which they perused the catalogues, it was evident that a great interest was taken in them. He added that numbers of the general public had been made aware by the Exhibition of the existence of this small Colony, and that the Gambia is now something more than a mere name on a map to them.

163. The following awards were received:—

FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

GAMBIA GOVERNMENT AWARDS.

Class 39.

Vegetable Food Products.

Ground-nuts, millet, rice, maize. Silver Medal.

Class 41.

Non-Edible Agricultural Products.

Indigo, rubber, gum arabic, and fibres. Grand Prix.

Class 42.

Useful Insects and their Products.

Wax. Silver Medal.

Class 50.

Products of the Cultivation of Forests.

Mahogany and other woods. Honourable Mention.

Class 87.

Applied Chemistry.

Native herbs. Gold Medal.

Other Awards.

Native leatherwork. Silver Medal.
Pottery. Silver Medal.
Native agricultural implements. Silver Medal.

164. During the year collections of blood-sucking flies and parasites were made by Dr. Hood, Senior Medical Officer, and forwarded by him to the British Museum and to Professor Nuttall of Cambridge. The specimens transmitted are being identified.

165. Very good partridge (the francolin) shooting can be obtained in the Gambia. An occasional antelope may be added to the bag, but big game shooting is out of the question except in

the upper reaches of the river and in French territory. All game birds are protected from 1st July to the 31st December; antelope from the 1st July to the 31st March. There is no *licence required for partridge shooting, but for antelope, bustards,* &c., £1 per annum is charged.

Social Condition of the People.

166. The rates of wages are high in the Gambia as compared with elsewhere on the Coast; labour just before the planting season is none too plentiful, but there is no opening for European labour. During the rainy season, July-November, the leading mercantile agents and almost all their clerks leave the Colony, and trade during that period is practically at a standstill. In other words, as soon as the ground-nut season ends, beyond a little local trade there is nothing doing until the next crop is pulled.

167. The inhabitants can be divided into two classes, a middle class and the labouring class; the former comprises professional men, shop-keepers, clerks, and artisans, and most of them are well-to-do.

The wants of the labouring class are few, and they can live fairly comfortably on £1 a month. Native foodstuff is cheap and very little clothing is required by them in this country.

General Condition of the Colony.

168. The progress of the Colony during the past five years has been most satisfactory.

The Colony's financial position is sound, and with the season of 1908-1909 the good one it promises to be, the largest revenue on record will be collected. The development of the Protectorate has steadily advanced and although it cannot be said that there is much opportunity for increasing trade, the volume of it has decidedly become larger during the last few years. The country is in a tranquil state and the people appear contented and prosperous, the troubles which existed only a few years back having, it is hoped, gone for all time.

F. Bisset Archer,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the Year 1908 for the Colony of the Gambia.

Scientific and Technical Department.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of the Gambia on the following subjects, on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed, when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. Recommendations have also been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which there would be satisfactory commercial demand.

Timbers.

A specimen of "rosewood" was found to resemble the true rosewoods in all physical characters except colour. The timber would not pass as rosewood on the English market, and should not be offered as such, but it would make a good furniture wood, especially if darker pieces are obtainable.

A timber described as "mahogany" resembled a very inferior baywood. It is not likely that timber represented by this specimen would be of sufficient value for export, but as it is easy to cut up and no doubt possesses many of the good qualities of mahogany it should be useful locally.

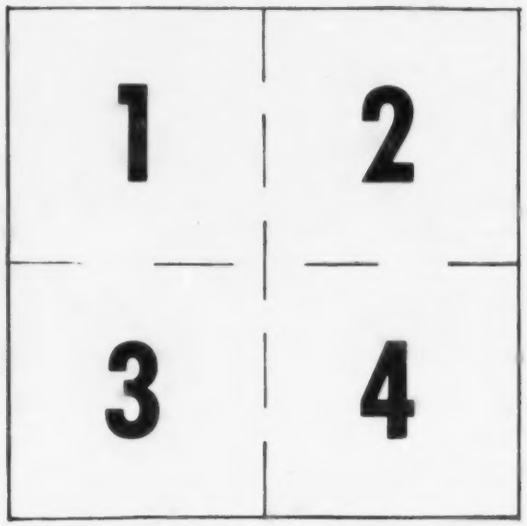
Rubber.

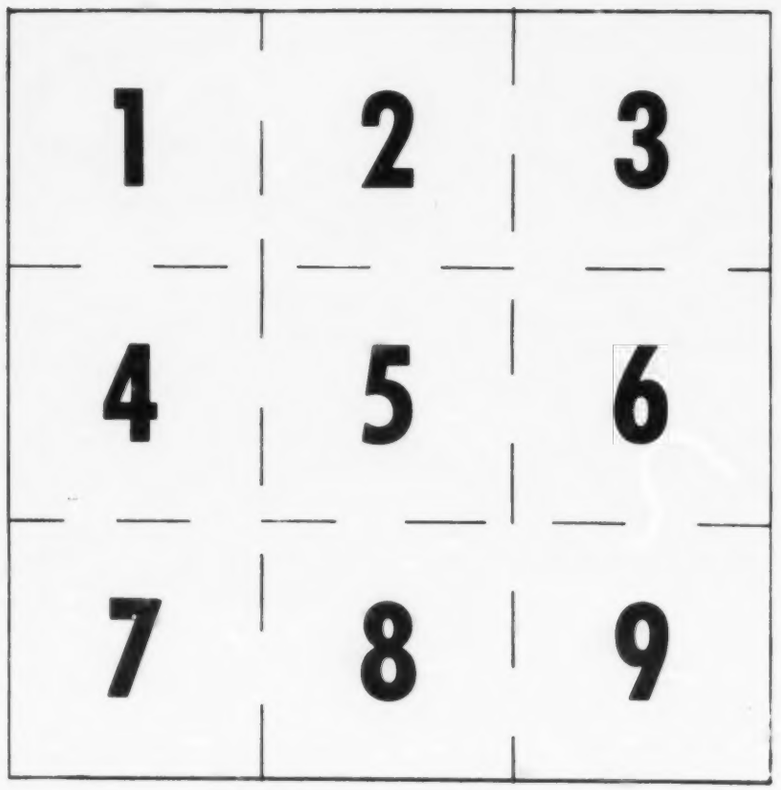
The investigation into the uses and value of the rubber of *Ficus Vogelii* was continued, and a small consignment was received for technical trial. The results of tests by manufacturers showed that the material could be utilised commercially, notwithstanding the high percentage of resin (30 to 35 per cent.) which it contained. The washed rubber was valued at from 1*s.* 7*d.* to 1*s.* 11*d.* per lb., with fine hard Para rubber at 2*s.* 9*d.* per lb. It was suggested that a trial consignment of the rubber should be forwarded for sale.

Exhibition Galleries.

The Staff of the Colonial Collections of the Imperial Institute rendered considerable assistance in arranging and labelling the Gambia products which were shown at the Franco-British Exhibition in London. At the close of the Exhibition a number of these exhibits were transferred to the Imperial Institute for addition to the Gambia Court, and this work, necessitating the re-arrangement of the Court, is in progress.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.





GAMBIA

16°30′ 16°0′ 15°30′

14°0′ 13°30′

NIUMI-BATO

Dense Forest

JOKADU OR JOKA FOREST

DIMMA

RIP

BACAU

NIAMINA

JARRA

KIANG

KABADA

Forest

Bamboo Forest

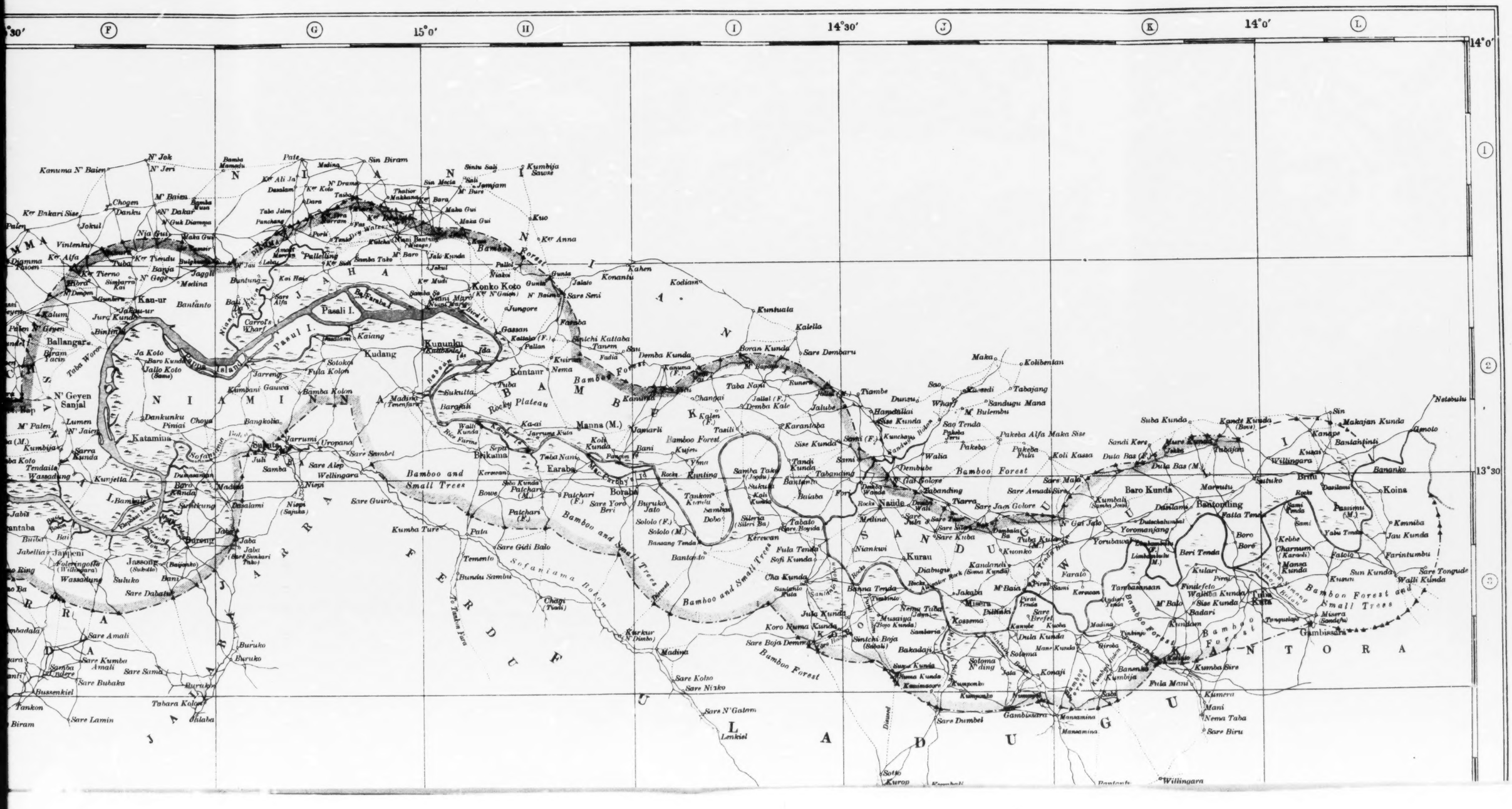
Mangrove Swamps

Rice Farms

Mangrove Swamps

Misira
Mina
Malka
Kebeh
Kerang
Ker Cherife
Ker Jatta
M' Bolett
Kanuma
Berrending
Nigna Farra (Hamacoda)
Jiffell
Bunjadu
Bakkendik
Lillra
Tarranakunda
Bakalli
Sukuto
Laltwakunda
Brufut
Mansakunda
Bunumbatas
Yundum
Mandinari
Tujurei
Jambur
Kunkujan
Kunkujan
Kambori
Tunjina
Sanjang
Brikama
Tuba Kuta (Kambuji)
Mandinaba
Pirang
Kiti
Manduari
Bassori
Kafuta
Saniangai
Sohm
Baijan
Gunjur
Jakuda
Faraba Sutu
Jinack Island
Kerewan
Karantaba
Jokadu
Jassa Ken
Jurunku
Alijamadu
Sita Nunku
Pakkau
Jakkai
Lamin
Berello
Suparra
Sika
Albreda
Lamin Point
Muls Point
Jali Point
Barra Point
Dimbeng Point
Bintang Bintang
Nata
Kansala
Brefet
Kansunku
Kanau
Bassen
Fula
Kansunku
Kansanda
Kansanda
Kansanda

GAMBIA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Bamba Mamadu
Pate
Sin Biram
Medina
Ker Ali Ja
Dasalam
N' Drama
Ker Kolo
Tasho
Thatior Makhana
Sin Macia
Sintu Sali
Sali
Jomjam
M' Buro
Kumbija Sawe
Chogen
Danku
M' Baien
N' Dakar
N' Guk Diamga
Bamba Musa
Ker Bakari Sise
Palen
Jokul
Take Jolem
Panchang
Dara
Bara
Maka Gui
Kuo
Nja Gui
Vintenku
Maka Gui
Ker Anna
Ker Alfa
Ker Tiendu
Damma Pacem
Tuba
Banja
Jaggli
Ker Tierno
N' Gege
Medina
Simparra Kai
Hibra
N' Dengen
Genkeo
Kau-ur
Bantanto
Kalum
Jaksau-ur
Jurc Kundo
Palen N' Geyen
Bintinto
Ballangar
N' Geyen Sanjal
Biram Yacin
Ja Koto
Baro Kunda
Jallo Koto (Sama)
Taba Woro
Dankunku
Pinian
Choya
Lumen
N' Jaien
Katamina
Kumbija
Sarra Kunda
Tendaita
Wassadung
Kunjetta
Jabil
Bantanto
Burba
Jajjeni
Jassong (Sukalo)
Bajanko
Suluko
Bani
Sare Dabato
Sare Amali
Sare Kumba Amali
Sare Bubaka
Sare Sama
Buruko
Tankon
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Sare Lamin
Tabara Kolon
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Kunjuku (Kuttabanta)
Ida
Sotoko
Fula Kolon
Jarreng
Kumbani Gauwa
Bamba Kolon
Madina (Tenenfara)
Sukutta
Barakuh
Rocky Plateau
Bangkolia
Jarrumi
Uropana
Sare Sambel
Sare Alep
Wellingara
Nioji
Sare Guiro
Kumba Ture
Tamento
Bundu Sambu
Chagi (Tenti)
Sofaniama Bokon
Kerkur N'Dimbo
Madina
Sare Kolao
Sare Ni'ako
Sare N'Gatam
Lenkiel
Kuntaur
Nema
Kuntair
Tuba
Kanuma
Kaba Nani
Jallal (F.)
Demba Kale
Kajen (F.)
Tasili
Bamboo Forest
Manna (M.)
Janiarli
Kolo Kunda
Bani
Kujen
Yona
Tabanding
Bantanto
Buiaba
Tankono Kunda
Sambai
Dobo
Sitenia (Silen Ba)
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Fula Tenda
Sofi Kunda
Cha Kunda
Santanto Fula
Jula Kunda
Koro Numa Kunda
Sare Boja Demre
Bakadajo
Sintchi Boja (Sabali)
Suma Kunda
Nema Kunda
Kumimasare
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Sare Dumbel
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Sintchi Kattaba
Tanem
Sau
Demba Kunda
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Gassan
Kattelo (F.)
Kaiang
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Boran Kunda
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Kolibentan
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Hamdallai
Sise Kunda
Sao Tenda
Sandugu Mana
M' Bulembu
Karantaba
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Kunchang
Pakeba
Pakeba Alfa Maka Sise
Sandi Kere
Pakeba Fula
Koli Kassa
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Dula Bas (M.)
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Gal Golore
Tabanding
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Bananko
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Farintumbi
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Walli Kunda
Fatola
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Yabu Tenda
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Sololo (M.)
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Patchari (F.)
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Sare Bojda
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Kurop
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Gunta
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Kumba Sare
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Gambissara
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Kanniba
Jau Kunda
Farintumbi
Sare Tongude
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Yabu Tenda
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Sololo (M.)
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Patchari (F.)
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Sare Gidi Balo
Jaba (Sare Gidi Jaba Tabo)
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Darong
Madina
Dasalami
Sambitung
Sare Ngai
Sare Bojda
Sare Kuba
Niankwi
Kurau
Kuonko
Kandanti (Sama Kunda)
Diabugu
Banna Tenda
Tambibinto
Nema Tabo
Jayn
Musaiya (Bojo Kunda)
Sambaria
Kumbo
Kumponko
Sare Birefet

Geographical Section, General Staff, No. 2447.

Reference

Boundary Pillars shown thus		▲
International Boundary		
Kunda	Mandinga for Town	
Kᵉ	Yolof	" "
Sare	Fula	" "
Tenda		Wharf
Bolon	Creek, River, or Marsh	
M = Mandinga	Y = Yolof	F = Fula

Scale 1/500,000 or Four Inches to 8 Miles

Miles 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35

Kilometres 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

Scale $\frac{1}{500,000}$ or Four Inches to 8 Miles

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 Miles

5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 Kilometres

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
574	Nyasaland	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	1907–1908
599	Falkland Islands	1908
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	"
605	Weihaiwei	"
606	Seychelles	"
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

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1909.

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No. 641.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 609.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

July, 1910.

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1910.

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No. 641.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 609.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
23rd May, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1909, together with an interesting report on it which has been prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

(16859—2.) Wt. 27349—387. 1125 & 85. 7/10. D & S A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1909.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue, the largest yet recorded in this Colony, amounted to £72,675 11*s*. 10*d*., and exceeded that of 1907 (the next largest) by £6,783, and that of 1908 by £14,777 11*s*. 9*d*. The estimated revenue for the year was £59,514 and the actual revenue received exceeded this by £13,161 11*s*. 10*d*. This large increase is due to the exceptionally good ground-nut season.

The increase is accounted for chiefly under the following heads:—

"Customs," £9,795, due to the larger importation of spirits and tobacco and to the larger exportation of ground-nuts, on which there is a duty of 6*s*. 8*d*. per ton.

"Post Office," £1,585, is owing to the sale of the new issue of stamps.

"Miscellaneous," £440, almost entirely due to the profit on the supply of rice to the natives in the Protectorate during 1907-1908 paid for in 1909.

"Protectorate," £668, caused by the greater influx of farmers and by more pasturage fees and rents being paid.

"Land Sales," £564, due to the transfer of "Premiums on leases" to this head from that of "Protectorate."

There is a decrease of £94 under "Fees" due to over-estimating, and one of £126 under "Government Vessels" due to the Colonial steamer, "Mansah Kilah," having been laid up for some time for repairs, her earnings being less in consequence.

The amount of revenue received under "Customs" was:—import duty, £37,420; export duty, £17,881; making a total of £55,301.

The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1908 and 1909 with their respective increases and decreases:—

Heads of Receipts.	1908.	1909.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
5 per cent. *Ad valorem* duty ...	5,820	5,943	123	—
Wine	1,070	1,002	—	68
Spirits	5,348	6,573	1,225	—
Malt Liquor	107	120	13	—
Tobacco	3,297	6,977	3,680	—
Oil and Turps, &c.	727	671	—	56
Sugar	2,572	2,919	347	—
Kola Nuts	11,312	9,985	—	1,327
Rice	1,960	1,711	—	249
Guns and Pistols	270	271	1	—
Powder	115	109	—	6
Salt	407	582	175	—
Kerosene	397	546	149	—
Coffee, Raw	8	3	—	5
Total	33,410	37,412	5,713	1,711
Exports—				
Ground-nuts	10,654	17,881	7,227	—
	44,064	55,293	12,940	1,711

The expenditure for the year amounted to £56,237 8*s*. 6*d*., being £1,327 11*s*. 6*d*. less than the Estimates.

The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Governor (£124), due to under-estimate of (1) the allowance drawn by the Deputy-Governor and A.D.C. and Private Secretary to the Acting Governor, and (2) travelling allowances.

Government Vessels (£264), due to special repairs in dry dock at Dakar (French Senegal) to the Government steamer "Mansah Kilah," and excess on the coal vote.

Agriculture (£281), due to purchase of two Ayrshire bulls and salary of attendants, forage, &c.

The principal decreases are as under:—

Colonial Secretary (£182), due to salary saved during vacancy in this appointment.

Protectorate (£833), due to over-estimating under several sub-heads.

Education (£206), due to a vacancy in one appointment, and to overestimating the earnings of the schools.

Frontier Force (£241), due to most items being over-estimated.

Public Works Recurrent (£297), due to certain works not having been fully completed in the year.

Public Works Extraordinary (£443), due to the inclusion of the tramline loan, it having been placed in the Estimates under this vote and subsequently adjusted. The actual expenditure (omitting the tramline amount of £750) was in excess of the Estimates, owing to the extra cost of the Kai Hai works.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the past ten years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	49,161	29,818
1901	43,726	48,518
1902	51,016	51,536
1903	55,564	67,504
1904	54,179	52,300
1905	51,868	72,297
1906	65,430	56,988
1907	65,892	57,729
1908	57,898	61,097
1909	72,675	56,237

No additional taxation was introduced during the year.

The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1909, was £58,276 1*s*. 8*d*., as compared with £39,574 14*s*. 5*d*., being an increase of £18,701 7*s*. 3*d*. If from this sum the value of Public Works Department stores on stock on 31st December, 1909, included as an asset for the first time, is deducted, viz.: £2,263 3*s*. 11*d*., the actual cash increase in the year 1909 amounted to £16,438 3*s*. 4*d*.

The surplus funds are invested in Government securities, and on 31st December, 1909, amounted to £29,110 5*s*. 3*d*., the actual cost having been £28,375 6*s*. 9*d*.

The Colony has no public debt.

The legal tender and usual currency is British, but a great number of five-franc pieces are in circulation the estimated value of which is £150,000; and these are received at an exchange value of 3*s*. 10½*d*. Bank of England notes are not legal tender but are accepted at the Bank of British West Africa, the only bank in Bathurst. The circulation is small. There is also a little French gold in the Colony.

The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was one per cent.

There are two Municipal Boards in the Colony, namely, the Board of Health (which consists of the Senior Medical Officer as Chairman, and the Colonial Engineer (both *ex-officio*), and six members appointed by the Governor) and the McCarthy Square Board.

The revenue of the Board of Health is derived from rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town at 3 per cent., and from fees collected from the slaughter-house, and a grant-in-aid from Government.

The following was the revenue received in 1909:—Local rates, £556; slaughter-house fees, £89; grant-in-aid, £400; miscellaneous, £2; total, £1,047.

The expenditure under all heads, including scavengering and lighting, amounted to £1,181.

The market is under the supervision of an inspector and is visited daily by a medical officer. It is in every way suitable to the requirements and the climate.

The slaughter-house is an iron structure built out into the river and approached by a pier.

McCarthy Square is situated in the centre of the town and is used as a parade ground by the West African Frontier Force and as a recreation ground for the public. Its upkeep is provided for by a grant from Government.

TRADE.

The total value of the trade of the Colony, inwards and outwards, for the year 1909 amounted to £882,524, against £764,878 in 1908, an increase of £117,646.

The total value of all imports was £404,560, against £390,740 in 1908, being an increase of £13,820.

The following table shows the imports classified so as to distinguish commercial from Government imports and specie for the five years 1905-1909:—

Return of Imports, 1905-1909.

Year.	Free Imports.		Specific.		*Ad valorem.*		Total.		Specie.	Grand Total
	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1905 ..	3,112	237	75,488	265	99,885	2,757	178,485	3,260	123,450	305,181
1906 ..	5,030	1,256	109,527	230	149,389	15,050	263,953	16,536	167,168	447,657
1907 ..	3,933	2,158	140,799	462	144,209	4,430	288,941	7,050	149,368	445,359
1908 ..	869	510	104,260	409	133,226	6,186	238,345	7,105	145,290	390,740
1909 ..	152,383	1,203	112,681	208	133,100	4,981	398,164	6,392	146,620	551,176

Increases.—The principal heads showing an increase were:—cotton goods (£10,157), tobacco (£6,496), kola nuts (£5,615), and sugar (£1,000).

Cotton Goods.—The total import was valued at £79,028, of which £74,409 came from Great Britain, £2,749 from France, and £1,516 from Germany.

The increase in cotton goods from Great Britain was £17,147, while there was a decrease from France of £6,912, an increase from Germany of £682 and from "Other Countries" a decrease of £760.

Tobacco.—The quantity imported shows an increase in weight of 218,460 lbs., with an increased value of £6,496.

The following comparative table shows the countries from which unmanufactured tobacco was imported in 1908 and 1909, respectively:—

	1908.	1909.
	lbs.	lbs.
Great Britain	113,165	79,196
French Colonies	Nil.	20,663
France	Nil.	105,892
Germany	59,076	236
America	10,146	194,248
	182,387	400,235

Kola Nuts.—There was a decrease of 206,467 lbs. in quantity, but an increase of £5,615 in value; the amount in 1908 being 905,045 lbs., of the value of £39,724.

Wines and Spirits.—There was an increase in the value of wines of £112, and in that of spirits of £343.

In 1908 the importation of rum was valued at £585, while in 1909 it rose to £1,105, and the value of gin, brandy, and whisky decreased.

The increase in wines was due to the quantity of claret imported.

Return showing total quantity, value, &c., of spirits of all kinds imported into the Colony of the Gambia during the years 1905–1909.

Article.	1905.				1906.				1907.				1908.				1909.			
	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.
Alcohol	Galls. 3	£ 1	4s. per gallon.	£ 1	Galls. —	£ —	4s. per gallon.	£ —	Galls. —	£ —	4s. per gallon.	£ —	Galls. 13	£ 3	4s. per gallon.	£ —	Galls. —	£ —	4s. per gallon.	£ —
Brandy	147	136		32	180	139		37	279	187		58	180	138		88	104	74		22
Gin (unsweetened) ...	10,227	1,590		2,047	22,011	3,662		4,406	11,820	2,011		2,366	17,206	2,928		3,157	18,902	2,307		2,843
Rum	5,790	606		1,159	20,822	1,651		4,169	8,664	896		1,736	5,307	586		1,194	9,929	1,106		2,334
Spirit (sweetened) ...	2,269	687		452	2,967	847		606	2,690	852		543	3,328	936		683	4,660	1,179		980
Whisky	969	541		187	1,336	675		264	1,722	926		343	1,305	656		276	1,889	924		394
Total	19,405	3,561		3,878	47,316	6,974		9,482	25,175	4,872		5,046	27,334	5,247		5,348	35,484	5,390		6,573

Sugar.—There was an increase in 1909 of 38 tons in weight and of £1,000 in value. 275 tons came from France, 30 tons from Great Britain, and 7 tons from Germany.

Salt shows an increase of 699 tons in quantity and £576 in value. Of the total imported in 1908 (1,627 tons), 101 tons came from Germany; while the whole amount in 1909 (2,326 tons) came from the Portuguese Colonies.

Rice.—There is a large decrease of 497 tons in quantity and £6,048 in value due to the favourable agricultural season and the abundance of the staple food of the inhabitants, viz., koos or millet.

The value of the specie imported during the year was £146,620 4*s.* 11*d.*, being £1,330 in excess of the year 1908.

The percentages of the total imports, exclusive of specie, coming from the various countries are as follows:—

Great Britain	49	
British Colonies	18½	
		67½
France and its Colonies	—	20
Germany	—	7
Other Countries	—	5½
		100

The total value of all exports during the year was £477,964, being an increase of £103,826 over 1908.

The principal articles exported were ground-nuts, hides, kola-nuts, palm kernels, beeswax, and rubber.

Ground-nuts.—A record crop was gathered, and the total amount exported, 53,644 tons, shows an increase of 21,680 tons beyond the preceding year and an increase of 8,170 tons over 1903, the record year prior to 1909.

This trade, which commenced in the year 1835 in consequence of the demand for nuts in America and England, has now almost entirely passed over to France. It is understood that an attempt is to be made by a firm in England to manufacture oil from the nuts supplied from the Gambia, and it is hoped that this may result in a greater proportion of the trade going to the mother country.

Hides show a further increase, the number, 33,411, being 1,731 in excess of those exported in 1908, with an increased value of £1,887.

Kola-nuts.—The trade in these nuts consists of re-exported kolas sent from this Colony to the adjacent French possessions.

Palm Kernels.—There was a decrease of two tons in quantity and an increase of £38 in value.

Beeswax.—There was a decrease of 11 tons in quantity and £856 in value.

Rubber.—The falling-off in the quantity of rubber exported in 1909 was not so large as in the preceding year, but the trade continues on the downward grade, showing a decrease of 3,020 lbs. from 1908. This is probably due to the large amount of cultivated rubber obtained from other countries and the improved method of extraction used. There are no rubber plantations in this country; the rubber exported is taken direct from forest trees.

The following return shows the principal articles of export with their values:—

Exports.

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1908.	1909.	1908.	1909.		
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts	31,964	53,644	245,084	323,231	78,147	—
	lbs.	lbs.				
Rubber	18,568	15,548	1,163	1,550	387	—
Wax	73,469	48,969	3,036	2,180	—	856
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels	390	389	3,488	3,526	38	—
	No.	No.				
Hides	31,680	33,411	6,633	8,520	1,887	—

Specie.—The value of specie exported during the year amounted to £126,745 0*s.* 10*d.*, against £102,480 7*s.* 3*d.* in 1908.

Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, 82 per cent. goes to France and its Colonies, 7 per cent. to Great Britain and its Colonies, and 4 per cent. to Germany.

Shipping.—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 451, with an aggregate of 495,963 tons, being an increase of 42 vessels and 77,522 tons beyond those registered in 1908.

The increase is due to the very large crop of ground-nuts available for exportation during the year.

The following comparative table shows the classification, tonnage, and nationality of vessels entered during the years from 1905 to 1909:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1905.			1906.			1907.			1908.			1909.		
	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ...	204,952	17	204,969	254,842	323	255,165	304,261	242	304,503	300,827	460	301,287	338,209	395	338,604
French ...	58,023	1,885	59,908	64,998	2,082	67,080	61,956	1,903	63,859	45,882	1,908	47,790	64,042	724	64,766
German ...	25,682	—	25,682	41,148	—	41,148	40,422	—	40,422	25,870	—	25,870	31,734	—	31,734
Russian ...	4,648	—	4,648	15,130	—	15,130	9,038	—	9,038	4,392	—	4,392	6,098	—	6,098
American ...	—	3,190	3,190	—	1,976	1,976	—	1,442	1,442	—	1,130	1,130	—	1,430	1,430
Norwegian ...	5,478	391	5,869	3,936	—	3,936	18,722	—	18,722	2,690	—	2,690	9,139	—	9,139
Portuguese ...	—	2,280	2,280	—	1,970	1,970	740	830	1,570	—	1,036	1,036	—	2,300	2,300
Danish ...	10,440	—	10,440	17,312	—	17,312	9,204	—	9,204	19,322	—	19,322	13,074	—	13,074
Swedish ...	1,990	—	1,990	—	798	798	—	—	—	1,688	224	1,912	—	224	224
Greek	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,024	—	5,024	13,012	—	13,012	20,070	—	20,070
Dutch	6,260	—	6,260	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,086	—	3,086
Spanish ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,438	—	5,438
Total ...	317,473	7,763	325,236	397,366	7,149	404,515	449,367	4,417	453,784	413,683	4,758	418,441	490,890	5,073	495,963

In considering the volume of trade of this Colony with Great Britain and foreign countries, it must be borne in mind that of the five European trading firms only one is British, while the remainder are French.

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES, &c.

So long as the ground-nut crop continues to thrive and to give the large return to cultivators and traders that it does at present, it is difficult to induce the people to take up other industries seriously.

The issue of 500 tons of seed-nuts by the Government to the people for planting (mentioned in last year's Report) is accountable in a considerable degree for the large increase in the nuts produced. The above amount was advanced by the principal firms. The introduction of the Coromandel nut has met with considerable success.

His Excellency the Governor obtained through the late Sir Alfred Jones, Chairman of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Company, a consignment of three and a-half bushels soya beans for experimental purposes. These beans were carefully distributed to selected chiefs and their planting and care was carefully watched over by the Travelling Commissioners, but the result has been disappointing, and it appears that the soil is not favourable to their introduction.

African millet or koos continues to be cultivated by the natives and, as has been shown in the trade section of this report, its production this year has been most successful, thus decreasing the demand for imported rice.

The agricultural school and farm at Abuko, subsidized by the Government and managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, has made great progress, and experiments have been made in planting cocoa, coffee, kola-nuts, and other products which promise well. The buildings are now complete; they consist of a brick dwelling-house for the Father in charge and the lay brother, who has had many years' experience in agriculture on the West Coast of Africa, and of a school building with a dormitory attached for the boys. Instruction is given in English by a qualified teacher for two hours a day. The remainder of the day is spent by the pupils, who number sixteen, in working in the experimental garden and farm under the direction of the instructor. The age of many of the boys (who are mostly aliens) is so young that it is too early yet to predict as to the success of the experiment.

There is some difficulty as to the supply of water, but the lay brother has been able already to show considerable promise in way of experimental agriculture. With a view to making the instruction of the lads at the school thoroughly practical, it is intended that the various contrivances adopted shall be such as the natives of the country could construct without outside assistance, and it is hoped that a simple "shaduf" method of obtaining water from the stream, as recommended by Mr. Dudgeon on his last visit, may be introduced, this being in common use in Egypt and Eastern countries.

The imported Ayrshire bulls have been carefully housed and have thriven. They have had some success, but the natives of the country are very slow in availing themselves of their services.

The number of calves showing an improved appearance is satisfactory evidence that the cross with the native cattle will result in a very much improved breed.

Some he-goats were imported from the Canary Islands but did not stand the Harmattan wind, and the first consignment succumbed, but it is hoped that their progeny will thrive, and a further attempt to import and acclimatize them will be made.

In the year 1908, Mr. Francisco Morales, a Spaniard from Teneriffe, applied for permission to start burning wood for the preparation of charcoal for export to the Canary Islands. In order to encourage a new industry, permission was granted to him to cut and remove old dead wood for this purpose free of charge, while he was told that for cutting mangrove wood he would be required to pay the ordinary charge of £1 per annum, and, for any living trees, the charges laid down in the Regulations. In the year 1909 one hundred and two tons have been exported, and thus a new industry has been started in the Colony.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the more important:—

No. 6. "An Ordinance to make provision for preventing the introduction and spread of infectious and contagious diseases affecting animals."

This Ordinance gives very wide powers to the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for preventing the introduction and spread of disease amongst animals. Heavy penalties are inflicted for a breach of the Ordinance or Regulations, and drastic powers are given to inspectors and others.

No. 11. "An Ordinance to amend the Criminal Law in relation to children."

This Ordinance abolishes the death sentence in the case of children under 16 years of age, and substitutes a system of detention.

No. 19. "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the administration and distribution of the estates of intestates."

This Ordinance repeals and re-enacts, with important additions, the Intestate Estates Ordinance, 1905. The most important addition consists of a provision for the distribution of estates at the end of two years to persons having a moral claim, though no legal right, to a share, and for the escheat to the Crown of estates to which no one has shown either a legal right or a moral claim within two years. Provision is also made for the cheaper administration of very small estates.

EDUCATION.

No Government schools are maintained in the Colony, the education being entirely denominational; but a grant is made

in each case by the Government towards the salary of the European Superintendent, and there is a further grant-in-aid based on the results of the annual examination and regularity of attendance. There are eight primary schools in the Colony and Protectorate, six in Bathurst, one in Kommbo, and one at McCarthy Island. Seven of these are established and managed by the Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic denominations. The eighth is the Mohammedan School originated by the Government, who pay the teachers. It is administered by a Board of Management consisting of the Governor as Chairman and eight of the leading members of the Mohammedan community.

During the year there were 1,139 children on the registers of the ordinary affiliated schools in Bathurst and 117 on the register of the Mohammedan School, and, in addition, 17 lads were in apprenticeship at the Wesleyan Technical and Industrial School to which the Government gives a grant of £300 per annum. In the Protectorate there were 88 children on the registers of the two Wesleyan Schools at McCarthy Island and Kommbo, giving a total of 1,361 children in attendance at the Government-aided schols, as compared with 1,326 during 1908.

At the annual examination, 585 children were presented from the Bathurst schools and 30 from the two Protectorate Schools. Of this number, 339 and 11, respectively, obtained passes in the various standards. The number of "good" and "extra good" passes is a satisfactory indication of the advance in the general standard of education.

The work of the Technical and Industrial School continues to show progress. The value of the work done by the student apprentices during the year amounts to £322 11*s*. 6*d*., and this includes carpentering and joinery and ironwork, much of which has been used in the erection of buildings in the town of Bathurst and its vicinity. At the close of the year there were seventeen boys at the school, of whom one was in his fourth year, two in their third, three in their second, and eleven in their first.

The income of the Elementary Schools under the several denominations was as here shown:—

Denomination.	Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.	£ *s*. *d*.
Anglican	22 2 0	102 19 3	280 3 3	405 4 6
Wesleyan	85 13 3¾	179 6 6¼	272 15 9	537 15 7
Roman Catholic ...	27 4 6	253 5 0	404 14 9	685 4 3
Mohammedan... ...	8 16 7	—	124 13 9	133 10 4
Total ...	143 16 4¾	535 10 9¼	1,082 7 6	1,761 14 8

The grants to the Anglican and Roman Catholic Schools include the Government grant of £150 per annum for a European Superintendent for each denomination. The Wesleyans are availing themselves of this grant in the coming year.

The expenditure of the schools for the year was:—

Denomination.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School materials.	Salaries.	Other expenditure.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglican ...	—	1 9 6	24 6 4	374 8 8	5 0 0	405 4 6
Wesleyan ...	2 3 0	3 14 0	19 12 4	508 16 3	3 10 0	537 15 7
Roman Catholic.	—	4 18 0	17 2 3	663 4 0	—	685 4 3
Mohammedan	—	—	1 6 6	128 11 2	3 12 8	133 10 4
Total ...	2 3 0	10 1 6	62 7 5	1,675 0 1	12 2 8	1,761 14 8

The Mohammedan School, which has been established since 1903, has 117 children on the register, as compared with 110 in 1908. The average attendance is 62 only. This is due to several boys having been transferred to other schools where the chances of prizes are greater. The advent of a new headmaster, it is hoped, will produce better results. English and arithmetic are taught for three days of the week and Arabic on the other days.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Victoria Hospital at Bathurst is thoroughly equipped and contains first, second, and third-class wards for men, and, in a separate building, a hospital for women. No structural alterations have been made during the year. The accommodation in the wards is as follows:—Men, first-class, 4 beds; second-class, 10 beds; third-class, 24 beds; female hospital, 12 beds.

There are three resident medical officers in Bathurst, and four European nursing sisters attached to the hospital, with a native staff, comprising a chief dispenser and four assistants and dressers, and three male and one female native nurses.

The nursing sisters are from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, in Paris, and there has been no change in the staff during 1909.

The total number of admissions to the hospital has been 666, being an increase of 73 over those of 1908. The out-patients seen at the hospital number 16,149, of whom 7,324 were new cases, compared with 14,834 persons and 6,713 new cases in the previous year. The confidence of the natives in the Institution is undoubtedly increasing, as shown by the above advance. The introduction of a scale of fees payable by out-patients who can afford it has not interfered with the working of the department, 58 patients during the last six months of 1909 having paid either 3*d*. 6*d*. or 1*s*. for medicine.

The following table shows the nationality of patients treated in hospital in 1909 and the casualties:—

—	Remaining in Hospital on 31st December, 1908.	Admitted during the Year.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1909.
Europeans	—	34	2	—
Natives	15	441	30	5
Syrians	—	9	2	—
West African Frontier Force.	1	127	—	2
Civil Police	1	55	—	—
Total	17	666	34	7

Of the 34 deaths in hospital, three were from malarial fever, four from debility, and the balance calls for no special comment.

Lectures on elementary hygiene and sanitation, followed by an examination, have been delivered to school teachers, but the attendance so far has not been as good as was hoped.

The Home for destitute persons was erected on the northern outskirts of the town and opened on June 12th. The main building consists of two airy wards, and there are also the usual out-buildings and attendants' quarters. The compound is divided so that the males and females are kept apart. During the year six males and seven females were admitted, of whom two males died, and one was removed by relatives to be cared for.

The contagious diseases hospital, situated two miles from Bathurst, is maintained as usual and proves of great utility.

At the McCarthy Island dispensary eight patients and 1,117 out-patients, of whom 665 were new cases, have been under treatment. The dispensary is in charge of a dispenser and is visited by the Protectorate Medical Officer as often as he is in the vicinity.

There is a Government Savings Bank under the management of the Receiver-General. At the close of the year there were 428 accounts, an increase of 11 over the preceding year. The amount remaining on deposit was £4,411 5*s*. 4*d*., an increase of £494. The amount deposited was £2,679 15*s*. 4*d*., and the sum withdrawn was £2,185 2*s*. 5*d*. The interest payable was £96 17*s*. 7*d*.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The strength of the Police Force remains as in former years, viz., one European Superintendent, one European Assistant-Superintendent, and 70 non-commissioned officers and men. Their duties are, generally speaking, confined to the Colony, and they can only be sent into the Protectorate under the special

authority of the Governor. There are exceptions as regards McCarthy Island, where a sergeant and three constables are stationed, and a few other places where a constable is stationed for special duties.

Attached to the Police is a Merryweather manual fire-engine. The number of calls on the police on account of fires was two only and the loss of property was practically nothing.

There is only one prison in the Colony. It is an old building and does not admit of the segregation of prisoners under the modern system. The sanitary condition is carefully looked after and the health of the prisoners has been good. In consequence of the outbreak of beri-beri in the previous year the diet of the prisoners has been altered and there has only been one case in the year under report.

The daily average number of prisoners has been 20·68 compared with 23·89 in 1908. The decrease is due to a less number of prisoners having been sent in from the Protectorate. The total number of admissions during the year has been 83, and there were 19 remaining over from 1908. Of these, 80 have been discharged on completion of sentence and one has been sent to Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum in England. There were 21 admissions to hospital and one death early in the year caused by beri-beri.

Prisoners are employed in addition to the ordinary stone-breaking, on Government work, and their earnings are estimated at £162 6*s*. 6*d*., while the total expenditure of the department amounted to £846 5*s*. 4*d*.

There were two cases of corporal punishment, both on the same individual, for violence and insubordination whilst in prison. These are the only cases in which corporal punishment has had to be resorted to for many years past.

The total number of cases brought before the Police Court was 263, being an increase of 59 as compared with the previous year. Of these, 75 resulted in acquittal, 182 in summary conviction, and six were committed to the Supreme Court for trial. The majority of the charges dealt with summarily were for minor offences against public order, but the increase in the number of offences against property and against the person is proportionately greater than the increase in the number of other offences.

The number committed for trial is half that of the previous year. They included one case of alleged murder on the part of a woman who was acquitted and is now in the Home for Destitutes. Of the remainder, one resulted in an acquittal and four in conviction.

In the Protectorate 229 cases were dealt with summarily by the Native Courts and the Commissioners, as compared with 551 in the previous year. The figures of the previous year were abnormal and appear to have been due to fines being inflicted on large numbers of men for breach of special provisions under the Protectorate Ordinance in the North Bank and Upper River

Provinces. The number of cases, however, shows a decrease of over 100 as compared with 1907.

One case of unlawful wounding committed in the Kommbo and Fogni Province in December, 1909, was awaiting trial at the Sessions at the close of the year. Four prisoners from the Protectorate were brought before the Supreme Court during the year. There was one charge of murder from the McCarthy Island Province, but a *nolle prosequi* was entered and the prisoner was discharged. Serious charges of arson and riot were made against two men from the Kommbo and Fogni Province; they were convicted and sentenced, respectively, to seven and three years' imprisonment. One other charge of murder appears on the calendars for the year, the prisoner coming also from the Kommbo and Fogni Province, but he died whilst awaiting trial.

The continued absence of serious crime in both the Colony and Protectorate is a matter for congratulation. The chiefs and headmen who form the native tribunals continue to perform their duties satisfactorily.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The last census was taken in 1901, and the population was then returned at 8,807 in Bathurst; it may be assumed that this has considerably increased in the last eight years. The population of the Protectorate is roughly estimated at 152,000.

The number of births registered in Bathurst and the Colony proper, consisting of St. Mary's Island, is 285, and 54 in those parts of the Colony administered under the Protectorate system. The birth-rate of Bathurst is 32·3 per 1,000, against 33·7 in 1908. The deaths registered were 264 in Bathurst and St. Mary's Island, and 66 in those parts administered under the Protectorate system, making a total of 330, or 57 less than those reported in 1908. The number of the deaths registered during the year is the lowest since 1900, and for the first time on record the number of births is slightly in excess of the death-rate.

There were 19 marriages solemnized in Bathurst during the year.

Taking both sexes, there were 151 European residents, of whom 38 were officials. There were three deaths among the European community, one being an official (the late Honourable H. M. Brandford Griffith, C.M.G., Acting Governor and Colonial Secretary), and one being an infant. Among the officials there was no case of invaliding, but three occurred among the other European residents.

There are 42 Friendly Societies registered in Bathurst.

The general health of the Colony remains good. In Bathurst the sanitation is under the control of the Board of Health. The

Board has done good anti-malarial work in filling up depressions and clearing water-courses, and removing broken receptacles which might form breeding places for mosquitos.

A grant of £50 was made this year for the free distribution of quinine, and 22,000 doses varying from 3 to 5 grains have been administered, for the most part to school children. The schools are visited weekly by a dispenser with supplies of quinine mixture and the distribution takes place before the children leave. Members of the Police, of the Company of the West African Frontier Force and their wives and families, and the prisoners in the gaol have all had quinine regularly administered to them since the rainy season commenced, and the willingness with which it is taken shows that its value is appreciated.

All the European residents sleep in mosquito-proof rooms or under mosquito curtains, and the provision of mosquito-proof accommodation in Government quarters for the use of officials during the daytime is under consideration.

Drinking water in the case of Europeans is obtained from the rain water from roofs which is carefully stored in locked tanks.

All the wells in the town have been completely covered in and fitted with pumps so that they may not be sources of malaria. Two of the wells have been fitted with the Janet Water Elevator; it is hoped in time to increase the number of these excellent appliances, five being provided for in the Estimates for the current year.

In the Protectorate the Commissioners and the Protectorate Medical Officer give much attention to the sanitation and cleanliness of the towns and villages, and, as in the past, prizes for the cleanest villages in each Province are granted by the Government.

In this last year smallpox has been singularly uncommon. In Bathurst, 895 persons were vaccinated during the year, and 2,517 in the Protectorate by the Travelling Commissioners and the Protectorate Medical Officer. A monthly supply of lymph is obtained from the Incorporated Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology. The lymph is sent from England on ice and transmitted to the Protectorate in well-constructed and protected boxes for preserving its activity.

The climate of the Gambia during the dry season, from the end of November to the middle of May, is pleasant and healthy. During the wet season, June to October, the conditions are much the same as elsewhere on the West Coast of Africa, but probably on account of the great change from extreme dryness to extreme damp it is the more trying. A meteorological station of the second class is maintained at Bathurst.

Considerably more rain fell during 1909 than in the two previous years, the record being: 1907 30·33 inches, 1908 35·89 inches, and 1909 56·59 inches; but this does not appear to have had any effect on the general health of the people.

The meteorological return for the year is as follows:—

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN FOR 1909.

(BATHURST.)

Months.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Wind.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.
	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.		
January	46	92	47	45	73·0	—	E
February	42	98	47	51	73·5	—	N
March	41	105	61	44	77·0	—	N
April	52	93	63	30	74·6	—	N
May	57	99	61	38	77·2	—	N
June	62	99	66	33	79·8	6·13	Variable
July	58	99	71	28	81·0	8·87	do.
August	60	89	69	20	80·5	19·89	do.
September... ...	62	91	69	22	80·6	17·30	do.
October	65	92	66	26	80·5	4·40	do.
November... ...	55	91	66	25	78·9	—	E
December	51	95	61	34	77·8	—	E
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	56·59	—
Monthly average ...	54·2	95·2	62·2	33	77·8	11·31	—

MAIL, POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

There is fortnightly communication between Liverpool and Bathurst by the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, both managed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company. Owing to the large number of ports at which these steamers call and to there being no mail contract the posts both from and to England are somewhat uncertain. An occasional Woermann Line steamer from Hamburg calls at Bathurst on the outward journey to Sierra Leone.

The Messageries Maritimes have a fortnightly service from Dakar to Bordeaux which completes the voyage in eight days compared with a fortnight or longer by the Elder, Dempster boats. Dakar is only 90 miles from Bathurst, and so it is possible to join one of the above-mentioned steamers, but communication between Dakar and Bathurst is irregular, and so the opportunity of joining either the Messageries Maritimes or the Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo (which call every three weeks at Dakar *en route* to Antwerp) is not often possible.

Internal communications are made by means of launches which run up the river in the service of the various trading firms, and they are ready to accept passengers and freight. The charge for

passage first-class from Bathurst to McCarthy Island, 153 miles, is £1 5*s*. and 12*s*. deck. The Government steamer "Mansah Kilah" is also available for passengers and freight at the same rate when not required for Government service.

Post Office.

The total receipts in 1909 were £2,325, as compared with £683 in 1908; and the expenditure £820, as against £757 in 1908.

The large increase of £1,642 in receipts in 1909 is due to the sale of stamps to dealers on the new issue of postage stamps coming into use. The profit on the year has been £1,505.

The Money and Postal Orders Department shows an increase of £715 over the preceding year. This is due to the establishment of a money order office at McCarthy Island in April, 1909.

The total value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the year is £4,848 3*s*. 3*d*.

The total number of letters and parcels dealt with during the year amounted to 110,682, being a decrease of 1,374 from the number in 1908.

MILITARY FORCES.

The only regular troops in the Colony consist of the Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force.

The Company forms a detached command of the West African Frontier Force and is inspected by the Inspector-General at his periodical visits.

The Gambia Volunteer Artillery was formed under Ordinance No. 4 of 1907. It is composed of two officers and 25 non-commissioned officers and men, who are mostly enrolled from the clerks in the Government offices.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Public Works.

The dredging operations in the Kai Hai Channel for the purpose of deepening the river channel at that place have been vigorously pushed forward during the year.

As pointed out in a former report, it is only possible to proceed with the work for seven months in the year owing to the heavy floods during the rainy season, and the progress of the work on account of its want of continuity is much hampered. The amount of rock and mud removed from the bed of the river during the year has been, approximately, 10,000 tons.

Steamers drawing 12 feet of water can safely pass at high water ordinary spring tides.

The cost of the work, including the dredger, a special launch, lighters, and the necessary plant has been £17,215 7*s*. 11*d*. up to date. The actual expenditure during the year has been £2,996 5*s*. 7*d*.

A large steam lathe and a stone crushing machine have been erected during the year in the Public Works Department yard and have proved great acquisitions.

Social Conditions of the People.

The rates of wages in the Gambia, as compared with other places on the West Coast, are high, and during the planting season labour is not very plentiful. There is no opening for European labour, as the climatic conditions are unsuitable. Natives of the Cape Verde and Canary Islands, who are already inured to a hot climate, could, no doubt, work here, as some are already doing in connection with the charcoal-burning industry. They could make a livelihood in farming and market gardening as their wants are so simple.

The inhabitants of the professional trading and artisan class are quite well-to-do, and the wants of the labouring class being small they lead an easy existence. Native foodstuff is cheap and clothing is light.

The progress of the Colony has been steadily maintained. The financial position is sound, and the season of 1909-1910 promises to be most favourable, and the revenue to be collected should exceed all previous years. The development of the Protectorate has steadily advanced and with recurring good seasons in the ground-nut industry the purchasing power and the wants of the people have increased, which has resulted in an advance of trade. The country is in a very quiet and tranquil state and the people appear contented and prosperous.

C. R. M. O'Brien,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–1906.
68	Do. do.	do. 1906–1907.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.

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No. 679.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 641.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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No. 679.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 641.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
18th April, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit one copy of the Blue Book for 1910, together with a very careful Report on it prepared by Lieut.-Colonel O'Brien, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

(20296—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125 & 85. 6/11. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1910.

FINANCIAL.

Again this Colony has had a record year; the revenue amounted to £82,880 7*s.* 4*d.*, and exceeded that of the previous year by £10,204 15*s.* 6*d.*, and that of 1908 by £24,982 16*s.* 3*d.*

The estimated revenue for the year was £61,529, and the actual revenue received exceeded this by £21,351. The large increase is due to a most prosperous ground-nut season.

The increase is accounted for chiefly under the following headings:—

"Customs" (£18,074), is due to large importation of spirits, sugar, kola-nuts, and the very large exportation of ground-nuts.

"Port Dues" (£76), is owing to the larger number of vessels entered and cleared during the year.

"Licences, &c." (184); a larger number of licences was granted for sale of liquor in the Protectorate, and there was an increase in Boat and Canoe Licences.

"Fees, &c." (£539); £539 in fees was collected for extra hours and duties at the Customs House.

"Post Office" (£284), owing to the increase in business and advance in cash on delivery parcel post.

"Interest" (£928), was due to the increase in revenue from interest on Assets invested.

"Miscellaneous" (£531), owing to the Intestate Estate deposits being passed to revenue.

"Protectorate" (£563), due to an increase in fees owing to a greater number of farmers, and also in pasturage fees and Court fines.

"Land Sales" (£281), increase on account of premiums on leases in the Protectorate.

There is a decrease of £55 1*s.* 6*d.* under "Government vessels," owing to a diminution in the number of passengers and amount of freight carried, and of £53 under "Rent of Government Property," due to over-estimating.

The amount of revenue received under "Customs" was:—import duty, £45,245; and export duty, £19,485; making a total of £64,730, as compared with £55,301 in 1909.

The following return shows the amounts collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1909 and 1910, with the respective increases and decreases:—

Heads of Receipts.	1909.	1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
5 per cent. *ad valorem* duty ...	5,943	9,870	3,927	—
Wine	1,002	1,130	128	—
Spirits	6,573	8,183	1,610	—
Malt Liquor	120	137	17	—
Tobacco	6,977	3,628	—	3,349
Oil and Turps, &c.	671	823	152	—

Heads of Receipts.	1909.	1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sugar	2,919	3,938	1,019	—
Kola nuts	9,985	13,917	3,932	—
Rice	1,711	2,444	733	—
Guns and Pistols	271	467	196	—
Powder	109	127	18	—
Salt	582	355	—	227
Kerosene...	546	215	—	331
Coffee, Raw	3	11	8	—
Total	37,412	45,245	11,740	3,897
Exports—				
Ground-nuts	17,881	19,485	1,604	—
	55,293	64,730	13,344	3,897

The expenditure for the year was £63,301 1*s.* 11*d.*, being £2,572 1*s.* 11*d.* over the amount estimated.

The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

" Pensions " (£565), due to new pensions and gratuities.

" Prisons " (£140), due to an increase in the number of prisoners during the year.

"Medical Department " (£116), due to increased rate of pay granted to medical officers.

" Miscellaneous " (£3,067), due to preliminary expenses in connection with passages of officers, purchase of vessels and instruments on account of the Surveys of Bathurst and the River Gambia which were commenced at the end of the financial year, and to the payment of two lapsed contributions to the Imperial Institute.

" Agriculture " (£440), due to appointment of Veterinary Surgeon, and under-estimating.

The principal decreases are as under:—

" Protectorate " (563) due to a saving on clearing of creeks, and over-estimating of other items.

" Customs Department " (£427), owing to the abolition of the appointment of Collector of Customs, and the vacancy in the appointment of Assistant Receiver-General for 8 months.

" Audit Department "(£145), owing to a new appointment of an officer on a lower scale of pay, and the saving due to the appointment being vacant for a short time.

" Frontier Force " (£207), due to over-estimating under several sub-heads.

" Police " (£109), due to a saving under clothing and equipment.

" Public Works Department " (£208), due to certain works not having been completed during the year.

" Public Works, Extraordinary " (241), due to the tram-line account being transferred.

The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the past ten years:—

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	43,726	48,518
1902	51,016	51,536
1903	55,564	67,504
1904	54,179	52,300
1905	51,868	72,297
1906	65,430	56,988
1907	65,892	57,729
1908	57,898	61,097
1909	72,675	56,237
1910	82,880	63,301

There has thus been an increase in the annual revenue of over £39,000, and in the annual expenditure of £14,783 during the past ten years.

No additional taxation was introduced during the year.

The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1910, was £75,322 15*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with £56,013 1*s.* 5*d.* on the 31st December, 1909, being an increase of £19,309 13*s.* 10*d.*

The surplus funds are invested in Government securities, and on the 31st December, 1910, amounted to £41,338 18*s.* 11*d.*, the actual cost having been £40,375 6*s.* 9*d.* There is also a sum of £27,000 on deposit with the London County and Westminster Bank.

The Colony has no public debt.

The legal tender and usual currency is British silver, but a great number of five-franc pieces, the estimated value of which is £150,000, are in circulation, particularly in the Protectorate; these are received at an exchange value of 3*s.* 10½*d.* Bank of England notes are not legal tender, but are accepted at the Bank of British West Africa, the only bank in Bathurst. The circulation is small. There is also a little French gold in the Colony.

The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London at the close of the year was 1 per cent.

There are two Municipal Boards in the Colony, namely the Board of Health and the MacCarthy Square Board. These Boards are composed of official and non-official members appointed by the Governor and presided over in each case by the Senior Medical Officer.

The revenue of the Board of Health is derived from rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town at 3 per cent., from fees collected from the slaughter-house, and from a grant-in-aid from Government.

The local rates in 1910 amounted to £744:—Slaughter-house fees, £83; grant-in-aid, £450; miscellaneous, £9; total £1,286.

The expenditure under all heads, including scavenging, lighting, upkeep of horses and carts, &c., amounted to £1,443.

The market is under the supervision of an inspector, and is visited daily by a medical officer. It is in every way suitable to the requirements and the climate.

The slaughter-house is an iron structure on piles built out at the end of a short pier into the river.

McCarthy Square is situated in the centre of the town and is used as a parade ground by the West African Frontier Force, and also as a cricket, football, and polo ground by the public. Its upkeep is provided for by a grant from Government.

TRADE.

For the first year in the history of the Gambia the total value of the trade inwards and outwards has reached over £1,000,000, being £1,134,460, thus exceeding the total for 1909 by £241,936.

Imports.—The total gross imports for the year amounted to £578,983, an increase of £174,423 over 1909.

The following table shows the classification so as to distinguish commercial from Government imports for the five years 1906-10.

Return of Imports, 1906–1910.

Year.	Free imports.		Specific.		*Ad valorem.*		Total.		Specie.	Grand Total.
	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.	Commercial.	Government.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1906...	5,030	1,256	109,527	230	149,389	15,050	263,953	16,536	167,168	447,657
1907...	3,933	2,158	140,799	462	144,209	4,430	288,941	7,050	149,368	445,559
1908...	869	510	104,250	409	133,226	6,186	238,345	7,105	145,290	390,740
1909...	5,763	1,203	112,681	208	133,100	4,981	251,544	6,392	146,620	404,556
1910...	4,658	612	148,405	322	209,035	7,407	362,098	8,341	208,544	578,983

Increases.—The net increase in 1910 is accounted for under the following principal heads, viz.:—Cotton goods (£51,583), kola nuts (£20,195), rice (£14,371), sugar (3,870), and spirits (1,539).

Cotton Goods.—The total value was £130,611, as compared with £79,028 in 1909; of this £114,781 came from Great Britain, showing an increase of £40,372, but at the same time it must be noted that whereas in 1909 the total value from France and Germany only amounted to £3,265, in the present year the cotton goods from foreign countries reached the considerable total of £15,830.

The large increase in the cotton goods imported in 1910 was due to increased trade and two successive good years of the ground-nut crop. The largest importation previously was in the year 1906, of the value of £89,688; there has thus been an increase of nearly 50 per cent. over any previous year.

Kola nuts show a very large increase. The quantity imported was 1,112,565 lbs. valued at £65,534, being an increase of 313,987 lbs. in quantity, and £20,195 in value in excess of 1909. This is a direct indication of more prosperous times and shows that the people have more money to spend both in our own and the adjacent French possessions.

Rice shows an increase of 32,650 cwts., valued at £14,371 above the quantity imported in 1909. This large increase is due to the failure of the crop of koos, the native corn, the staple food-stuff of the country. Although good rice is grown in the Protectorate, the amount of ground suitable for its cultivation is insufficient to raise an adequate supply for the needs of the people. The cultivation of rice is entirely confined to the women, while the men are engaged in other agricultural pursuits.

Sugar increased by 2,492 cwts. in quantity, and £3,870 in value. There was a small increase of 29 cwts. in the amount imported from Great Britain, but by far the largest proportion (close on 90 per cent.) comes from France.

Wines and Spirits.—There was an increase in the value of wine of £413, and in that of spirits of £1,539. The latter consists largely of trade gin and rum, which is imported from Germany. (*See* table on p. 12.)

Tobacco shows a considerable decrease from 1909, the amount being 63,744 lbs. less in quantity, and £5,469 in value. The reason assigned is that considerable stocks remained over from the previous year, when the importation was abnormally large.

Salt shows a decrease of 906 tons.

Gunpowder shows an increase of 142 barrels.

Specie.—The value of the specie imported during the year was £208,544, being an increase of £61,924 beyond the previous year.

The percentages of the total imports exclusive of specie coming from the various countries are as follows:—

Great Britain	48·3	
British Colonies	18·0	
		66·3
France and its Colonies... ...	—	22·8
Germany	—	8·2
Other Colonies	—	2·7
		100·0

There is a decrease of 1·2 in the percentage of imports from Great Britain and her Colonies, with a corresponding increase in that of Germany, while France shows an increase of 2·8 and "other countries" a decrease of the same amount.

Exports.—The total value of the export trade of the Gambia for the year 1910 was £535,447, being an increase of £57,483 over 1909.

The principal articles exported are ground-nuts, kola-nuts, palm kernels, beeswax, rubber, and hides.

Ground-nuts.—The crop this year was far in excess of all former records. The quantity exported reached the total of 58,456 tons of a value of £387,943, being an increase of 4,812 tons in quantity, and £64,712 in value over the previous year, and 12,982 tons above the crop of 1903, which until the last two

years has stood as the record year. This further advance in the staple industry of the Gambia is most gratifying. It is due to a favourable season, a good supply of labour, and to the good quality and prices maintained by the nuts from the Gambia.

The bulk of this product went, as in former years, to France, where most of the oil-mills are situated. In last year's report mention was made of the intention of a firm in England to manufacture oil from Gambia nuts, and it is noteworthy that there was an increase in the year under review of 1,226 tons exported to Great Britain.

Kola-nuts.—A large trade is done by the re-exportation of kolas from this Colony to the adjacent French territories.

Palm kernels.—The total quantity exported was 467 tons, being an increase of 78 tons over the previous year and the largest amount yet reached in this Colony.

Beeswax shows a decrease from the former year of 23,351 lbs.

Rubber shows a further falling off in quantity of 8,400 lbs., and in value of £598. It was pointed out in last year's report that there are no plantations in the Gambia, the rubber exported being taken direct from forest trees, which are confined to one province only in the Protectorate, and to a further supply coming from French territory.

Hides have increased considerably; the number exported was 38,041, being 4,630 in excess of those exported in 1909, with an increased value of £2,790.

Charcoal was first exported from this country to the Canary Islands in 1909, when 102 tons were sent; this has now increased to 176 tons, of a total value of £634.

The following return shows the principal articles of export, with their values in 1909 and 1910 respectively:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1909.	1910.	1909.	1910.		
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts	53,644	58,456	323,231	387,943	64,712	—
Palm kernels... ...	389	467	3,526	5,640	2,114	—
	lbs.	lbs.				
Rubber	15,548	7,148	1,550	950	—	600
Wax	48,969	25,718	2,180	1,274	—	906
	No.	No.				
Hides	33,411	38,041	8,520	11,310	2,790	—

A comparative statement is given below showing the development of the ground-nut and palm kernel industries for the years 1901-10, a term coincident with the period of control of the present Governor of the Gambia.

Return showing Quantity, &c. of Ground Nuts and Palm Kernels Exported during the years 1901 *to* 1910.

Articles.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Ground-nuts.	25,750	31,612	45,477	43,436	29,499	36,050	40,858	31,964	53,644	58,456
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
do.	172,405	193,485	275,394	229,287	169,426	278,055	256,685	245,084	328,231	387,943
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Palm Kernels.	153	137	109	179	227	256	342	390	389	467
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
do.	971	945	793	1,132	1,612	2,122	3,657	3,488	3,526	5,640

Specie.—The value of specie exported during the year amounted to £112,194, as compared with £126,745 in 1909.

Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, 84·2 per cent. goes to France and its Colonies, 9·3 to Great Britain and its Colonies, 2·1 to Germany, and 4·4 to other countries.

It is only fair to point out, when considering the above figures, that of the five European trading firms only one is British and the remainder are French.

Shipping.—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 457, with an aggregate tonnage of 506,914, being an increase of 6 vessels, and 10,951 tons beyond those registered in 1909.

There is a considerable decrease of 1,789 tons among foreign sailing vessels due to a diminution in the number of sailing ships coming from the Cape de Verde Islands bringing salt.

The increase in the gross total is due to the large crop of ground-nuts available, and the prosperity and increased trade resulting therefrom.

The following comparative table shows the classification, tonnage, and nationality of all vessels entered during the years 1906 to 1910.

Return showing Tonnage and Nationality of Steamers and Sailing Vessels Inwards and Outwards during the years 1906-1910.

Nationality of Vessels.	1906.			1907.			1908.			1909.			1910.		
	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ...	254,842	323	255,165	304,261	242	304,503	300,827	460	301,287	338,209	395	338,604	323,193	687	323,880
French ...	64,998	2,082	67,080	61,956	1,903	63,859	45,882	1,908	47,790	64,042	724	64,766	66,910	674	67,584
German ...	41,148	—	41,148	40,422	—	40,422	25,870	—	25,870	31,734	—	31,734	33,188	—	33,188
Russian ...	15,130	—	15,130	9,038	—	9,038	4,392	—	4,392	6,098	—	6,098	12,874	—	12,874
American ...	—	1,976	1,976	—	1 442	1,442	—	1,130	1,130	—	1,430	1,430	—	—	—
Norwegian ...	3,936	—	3,936	18,722	—	18,722	2,690	—	2,690	9,139	—	9,139	12,382	—	12,382
Portuguese ...	—	1,970	1,970	740	830	1,570	—	1,036	1,036	—	2,300	2,300	—	1,561	1,561
Danish ...	17,312	—	17,312	9,204	—	9,204	19,322	—	19,322	13,074	—	13,074	16,040	—	16,040
Swedish ...	—	798	798	—	—	—	1,688	224	1,912	—	224	224	2,184	654	2,838
Greek... ...	—	—	—	5,024	—	5,024	13,012	—	13,012	20,070	—	20,070	23,503	—	23,503
Dutch... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,086	—	3,086	6,032	—	6,032
Spanish ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,438	—	5,438	—	—	—
Italian ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,032	—	7,032
Total ...	397,366	7,149	404,515	449,367	4,417	453,784	413,683	4,758	418,441	490,890	5,073	495,963	503,338	3,576	506,914

Returns showing total Quantity, Value, &c., of Spirits of all kinds Imported into the Colony of the Gambia during the years 1906 to 1910.

Article.	1906.				1907.				1908.				1909.				1910.			
	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue collected.
	Gals.	£		£	Gals.	£		£	Gals.	£		£	Gals.	£		£	Gals.	£		£
Alcohol	—	—	4*s.* per gallon.	—	—	—	4*s.* per gallon.	—	13	3	4*s.* and 4*s.* 2*d.* per gallon.	—	—	—	4*s.* 2*d.* per gallon.	—	—	—	4*s.* 2*d.* per gallon.	—
Brandy	180	139		37	279	187		58	180	138		38	104	74		22	215	147		42
Gin (unsweetened) ...	22,011	3,662		4,406	11,820	2,011		2,366	17,206	2,928		3,157	18,902	2,307		2,843	23,592	2,572		3,413
Rum	20,822	1,651		4,169	8,664	896		1,736	5,307	586		1,194	9,929	1,106		2,334	13,603	1,548		2,340
Spirits (sweetened) ...	2,967	847		606	2,690	852		543	3,323	936		683	4,660	1,179		980	9,364	1,991		2,026
Whisky	1,336	675		264	1,722	926		343	1,305	656		276	1,889	924		394	1,732	871		361
Total	47,316	6,974		9,482	25,175	4,872		5,046	27,334	5,247		5,348	35,484	5,590		6,573	48,506	7,129		8,183

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES, ETC.

The ground-nut crop cultivation continues to absorb the almost undivided attention of both farmers and traders, and so long as it continues to yield the large return that it yields at present it is difficult to raise real interest among the people in the development of other products. This is much to be regretted, as the finances of the Colony are almost entirely dependent on the success of this one industry.

As in former years an issue of ground-nut seed (about 209 tons) was arranged for by the Government through the local firms to be made as an advance to the chiefs and people in the Protectorate for sowing. The amount issued has been very much

less than in last year, as, in consequence of a full crop and low prices farmers saved more of their own seed for sowing. Further experiments have been made with Fiji and other nuts handed out to selected chiefs, but the results have not been favourable. The people have been strongly urged by the Governor to increase the amount of ground placed under maize cultivation in order that they may have an alternative crop, but although the actual amount planted has increased there is not sufficient for exportation.

African koos or millet of several varieties continues to be cultivated for home consumption, and, as has already been shown in this report, a considerable amount of rice of good quality is grown; but this also is only for their own use, and in order to meet the wants of the people the amount imported has been very large in the past year.

The advance in the Agricultural School and farm at Abuko, subsidised by the Government and managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, has not come up to expectation. Although the instruction by a lay brother of experience is of great value, and the work of ploughing and more careful agriculture is apparent in the treatment of the ground, and experiments with various products have had a considerable measure of success, the number of the pupils has not increased in the ratio desired. Many of the boys (who are mostly aliens) are so young that few are of any great value as labourers, and it would appear that the fact of the school being managed by a religious mission militates against its success. Mohammedan parents are proverbially suspicious of other religious influences, and this may account for youths of better birth and more mature age not joining the school. The hope that the pupils from this school would spread the knowledge acquired throughout the Protectorate appears still far from accomplishment.

The advent of a Veterinary Surgeon (whose services are shared with the Government of Sierra Leone) has met with appreciation from the people. The Veterinary Surgeon has toured all the provinces, and the chiefs, headmen and people have readily consulted him as regards the diseases and ailments of, and injuries to, their horses, flocks, and herds, and information as regards the treatment of diseases has been freely given. A considerable amount of bacteriological work has also been undertaken, and some success attained in the treatment of trypanosomiasis among horses.

An experiment was made during the past year of sending out one of the imported Ayrshire bulls into the Protectorate. It is too early yet to judge of the result, but the bull was much admired and served a number of cows during the tour.

Considerable mortality among the goats imported from the Canary Islands must be again recorded, but a number of kids that have been born at Bathurst both of pure Canary parentage and from a cross with the local goats are of a promising class.

As already mentioned in the trade section of this report, the export of charcoal which was commenced in 1909 has increased from 102 to 176 tons of a total value of £634.

LEGISLATION.

Thirteen Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 4.—" An Ordinance to provide for the giving of Security for the faithful performance of their duties by Public Officers."

This Ordinance provided for the contribution by officials of this Colony to the Sierra Leone Public Officers' Guarantee Fund. The chief advantage of this form of giving security is that nine-tenths of the premiums paid are ultimately repayable to officers who have not been in default.

No. 11.—" An Ordinance to amend the Protectorate Ordinance, 1902."

This Ordinance enables a Coroner's inquisition to be held in the Protectorate by the Travelling Commissioner of each Province subject to certain conditions.

No. 12.—" An Ordinance to confer upon a certain Company called " Société Commerciale de Sénégambie," the capacity to hold real property in the Colony of the Gambia.

By this Ordinance the Company named is given power to hold real property subject to the usual conditions imposed in such cases.

EDUCATION.

Education in the Colony is entirely denominational, no schools being maintained by the Government. A grant of £150 per annum is paid by the Government towards the salary of each of the European superintendents, of whom there are three, and a further grant-in-aid is made, based on the results of the annual examination and regularity of attendance.

The number of primary schools remains as before, viz.:—six in Bathurst, one in Kommbo, and one at McCarthy Island. Of these, seven are established and managed by the Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic denominations, while the eighth is the Mohammedan school originated by the Government, who pay the salaries of the teachers. It is administered by a Board of Management consisting of the Governor as chairman, and eight of the leading members of the Mohammedan community.

There has been a marked improvement in the number of children attending the schools, which has risen from 1,361 in 1909, to 1,483 in 1910. This total is made up by 1,256 children in attendance at the ordinary affiliated elementary schools in Bathurst, 99 at the Wesleyan schools in the Protectorate, 108 at the Mohammedan school, and 20 apprentices at the Technical and Industrial school. The grants-in-aid have also increased by £40 during the year.

A supplementary examination in the lower standards was held in June last, and the annual examination took place in December.

At this latter examination 549 children presented themselves

for examination. 338 passed, whilst altogether 382 "extra good" passes were obtained, being an increase of 41 over the former year.

The income of the elementary schools was as here shown:—

Denomination.	Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglican	23 2 2	107 19 4	255 15 0*	386 16 6
Wesleyan	91 12 9½	294 11 7½	533 8 7†	919 13 0
Roman Catholic ...	42 16 7	251 13 10	407 3 5*	701 13 10
Mohammedan	7 7 1	—	123 15 0	131 2 1
Total	164 18 7½	654 4 9½	1,320 2 0	2,139 5 5

* Includes grants of £150 to European Superintendents.

† Includes grant of £181 9*s.* to European Superintendents from October, 1909, to December, 1910.

The expenditure of the schools for the year 1910 was:—

School.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School Materials.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hagan Street...	—	3 6 0	13 5 10	447 9 0	—	464 0 10
St. Joseph's Convent.	—	2 15 0	14 10 0	220 8 0	—	237 13 0
St. Mary's ...	—	7 16 4	37 6 7	311 6 7	30 7 1	386 16 6
Dobson Street	—	13 0 6	11 10 0	318 14 0	81 4 10	424 9 0
Stanley Street	—	189 11 6	7 1 1	132 5 0	56 13 5	385 11 0
McCarthyIsland	—	0 6 0	6 7 8	63 12 0	—	70 5 8
Kommbo ...	—	0 5 9	2 9 9	36 7 6	0 4 0	39 7 0
Mohammedan	—	—	0 10 10	127 4 0	3 7 3	131 2 1
Total ...	—	217 1 1	93 1 9	1,657 6 0	171 16 7	2,139 5 5

In connection with the generally improved attendance at school, it is satisfactory to note that, in addition to the regular free distribution of quinine by the Medical Department on fixed days to children attending, a further advance was made this year by the free gift of quinine at the Colonial Hospital on certain days throughout the rainy season and least healthy time of the year. The number of children who were sent weekly with the co-operation of parents and school managers for this treatment was an indication that its value is appreciated, and it may well be considered to have had some relation to the more regular attendance during term time.

Another satisfactory feature was the increased interest shown in the optional subjects. Among the latter the teaching of elementary hygiene and sanitation has been added, and several children presented themselves for examination in this most important subject.

The Technical and Industrial School which receives a grant of £300 per annum from Government and is under the Wesleyan mission continues to progress steadily. There was an increase of three in the number of apprentices, while the value of the work done by the school during the year amounted to £356 16*s.* 11*d.* (an advance of £34 5*s.* 5*d.* on the previous year); this includes carpentering, joinery, ironwork, and masonry, which have been used in the erection and repairs of buildings in the town and in the manufacture of good useful furniture. After the pupils have passed through their apprenticeship they have little difficulty in obtaining employment in the Public Works Department or in civil life, and their services are much sought after for the trading stations up the river, where a young man who, in addition to some education, has a good knowledge of one of the handicrafts is of great assistance.

The Mohammedan School, which is now in the fifth year of its existence, has not had a very successful year; the number attending has fallen from 117 to 108, while the average attendance has decreased from 62 to 61. The school has suffered through want of efficiency on the part of the teaching staff, and also through pupils leaving for other schools where the chances of prizes are greater.

A new head master who has been successful in another school has been appointed, and the teaching staff has been increased, and the Government has decided to give prizes as an encouragement to the boys to remain on in the school. The Government are also assisting the managers of the school in several structural improvements which should add to the well-being of the school.

The children are taught English and arithmetic on four days a week and on the other days Arabic and the Koran.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The Victoria Hospital is thoroughly equipped and has accommodation for the following patients:—Men, first class ward, 4 beds; second class ward, 10 beds; third class ward, 24 beds. Women, 12 beds. The women's wards are situated in a separate building.

On account of the outbreak of yellow fever at Sierra Leone, it was considered desirable to make mosquito-proof three of the wards, and it is now possible to segregate at a moment's notice twenty or more patients in the event of yellow fever breaking out at Bathurst.

The mosquito-proof wards are much appreciated by the patients, and it is hoped that the remaining wards may be similarly treated before very long.

The establishment consists of three European medical officers resident in Bathurst, and four European nursing sisters attached to the hospital, together with a native staff consisting of a chief dispenser, four assistant dressers, and three male and two female nurses. The European nurses are from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, in Paris.

The total number of admissions to the hospital has been 669, an increase of three as compared with 1909. The number of new cases attended to among the out-patients is 7,440, as compared with 7,324 last year. The number of deaths in hospital has fallen, but this is probably due to the transfer of the old and decrepit patients to the Home for Destitutes.

The following table shows the nationality of the in-patients treated during 1910, and the number who have died in hospital:—

Nationality.	Remaining in Hospital on 31st December, 1909.	Admitted during the Year.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital on 31st December, 1910.
Europeans	—	36	1	—
Natives	5	393	19	1
Syrians	—	11	1	—
West African Frontier Force.	2	155	—	—
Civil Police	—	74	1	1
Total	7	669	22	2

Of the 22 deaths that occurred in the hospital during the year, one was from blackwater fever, five from malarial fever and dysentery, one from trypanosomiasis, one from tetanus, and four from tuberculosis, the remainder calling for no special comment.

The Home for Afflicted and Destitute Persons continues to fill a most useful purpose. During the year four men and four women were admitted to the Home, making a total of 18 inmates; and two men and two women were discharged. Of those discharged, two refused to remain in the Home, one was taken away to be cared for by relatives, and one suffering from dementia was sent to the Kissy Asylum at Sierra Leone. There were nine deaths during the year; the number seems very high, but it must be borne in mind that the persons are in many cases very old and decrepit or advanced in affliction when admitted.

The contagious diseases hospital, situated two miles from Bathurst, is maintained as usual and proves of great service, but there is a considerable want of a quarantine station or camp where persons arriving from an infected port could be landed and segregated. The main difficulty is to find a suitable place on dry land conveniently situated for the purpose.

At the McCarthy Island dispensary, 19 in-patients and 1,896 out-patients, of whom 1,161 were new cases, were duly treated. The dispensary is under the charge of a dispenser and under the supervision of the Protectorate Medical Officer. A new hospital is now in the course of construction at McCarthy, which will consist of one European ward, two native wards (one male and one female), and an isolation ward, and a resident Medical Officer will shortly be appointed to take charge of it; this will leave the Protectorate Medical Officer more free to visit all the Provinces in the Protectorate, while the establishment of a permanent

equipped hospital in a central position, like McCarthy, to which serious cases can be sent for treatment will prove a great boon to both the European and the native population of the up-river Provinces.

The Government Savings Bank, which is under the management of the Receiver-General, continues to flourish. At the close of the year there were 456 accounts, an increase of 28 over the previous year. The amount remaining on deposit was £5,261 15*s*. 10*d*. an increase of £850 10*s*. 6*d*. The amount deposited during the year was £2,725 11*s*. 7*d*. and the sum withdrawn was £1,875 1*s*. 1*d*., while the interest payable was £113 1*s*.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

There has been no change in the strength of the Police Force, which remains as in former years, viz.:—one European Superintendent, one European Assistant Superintendent, and 70 non-commissioned officers and men. Of this number, two officers and 62 non-commissioned officers and men are stationed in Bathurst and one non-commissioned officer and seven men at McCarthy Island and other places in the Protectorate.

Attached to the Police Department is a Merryweather manual fire-engine, in the use of which selected men are instructed.

There were twelve calls on account of fire received by the Police, being an increase of ten compared with the previous year. Fortunately no lives were lost, but the value of the property destroyed is estimated at £1,037 11*s*. 4*d*., a heavier record than has occurred for many years.

The expenditure on the Force in 1910 amounted to £3,858 15*s*. 2*d*.

The only prison in the Colony is a very old one and its structure and accommodation do not admit of the segregation of prisoners under the modern system. The sanitary condition is, however, carefully supervised and the health of the prisoners has been good. Only one death occurred; this was the case of a prisoner who succumbed in the Colonial Hospital after a long illness.

The daily average of prisoners was 23·78, as compared with 20·68 in 1909 and 23·89 in 1908. The total number of admissions during the year was 68, and 22 remained over from 1909. Of these, 54 were discharged on completion of their sentences, two were found to be insane and sent to the Kissy Asylum in Sierra Leone, nine were released on paying the fines due from them on conviction, three were released by the Governor before the expiration of their sentences on special grounds, and one, as before mentioned, died in hospital, leaving 23 in the prison at the close of the year.

Four prisoners were sentenced to death, one of whom suffered capital punishment, the sentences of the remaining three having been commuted to long periods of imprisonment.

In addition to ordinary stone-breaking, prisoners are employed on Government works, their earnings under this head being estimated at £187 10*s.*, while the total expenditure of the Department amounted to £984 2*s.* 11*d.*

Fifteen persons were dealt with for prison offences. There was no case of corporal punishment during the year.

Divine service is held every Sunday by the Chaplain, and his address is interpreted to prisoners that do not understand English.

Ministers of all faiths are given access to the prisoners at regular hours.

The total number of cases brought before the Magistrates was 233, being a decrease of 30 as compared with the previous year and slightly below the average of the last four years.

One hundred and twenty-seven cases resulted in conviction as compared with 182 in 1909, and 99 resulted in acquittals, a number noticeably greater than in the previous year; seven cases were committed for trial. The decrease in the number of convictions for petty offences against property is a satisfactory feature.

Of the cases committed for trial four resulted in a verdict of guilty, one in a verdict of not guilty, in one no evidence was offered by the Crown, the prisoner having pleaded guilty to other charges, and in one a *nolle prosequi* was entered.

In the Protectorate the returns are very similar to those of 1909. From the North Bank Province there is a considerable reduction (of 40 cases) in those reported, while the Upper River is practically the same, and there is a slight increase from the other Provinces. The number of cases that have been dealt with by the native tribunals has fallen considerably in the past two years. The rarity of cases of larceny in the Protectorate, as in the Colony, is a remarkable and satisfactory feature, and it is notable that no punishment of peremptory imprisonment is recorded for that or any other offence, the punishments awarded by the tribunals having in all cases been in the nature of fines.

In all 14 prisoners from the Protectorate were sent into Bathurst for trial, of whom three were discharged and the remainder convicted. There were two cases of murder. In one, which came from Fogni Province, a Jolah Chief and three others were accused of the murder of a man. One of the prisoners was discharged and the other three were sentenced to death. Two of the latter were recommended to mercy on the ground that they acted under the orders of the third, who was their Chief. The extreme penalty was commuted in all three cases.

The other case of murder took place in the McCarthy Island Province. A man, a stranger to the neighbourhood, deliberately discharged a gun into the midst of a circle of men, by way of revenging himself for a real or imaginary grievance, and killed one of them. The defence set up was that he was of unsound mind. This, however, was not upheld by medical testimony, and the accused was convicted and sentenced to death and the sentence was carried out.

A somewhat serious case of cattle slaying arose at Bakau, in Kommbo, in which certain of the West African Frontier Force were concerned, and for which one man was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. There was no other case of special interest in the calendar.

It is again a pleasurable duty to call attention to the continued absence of serious crime both in the Colony and Protectorate. The close touch of the Commissioners with the Chiefs and the people and the presence of the Governor for considerable periods in their midst tends much to encourage and maintain the excellent relations that exist. The native tribunals, presided over by the Chiefs and headmen, and supervised by the Travelling Commissioners, continue to do good work in settling disputes as to dowries and other causes of disagreements among the natives. It would be difficult to find an area of equal size in which serious crime is so conspicuous by its absence.

VITAL STATISTICS.

According to the census of 1901 the population of Bathurst was returned at 8,807. This number has undoubtedly considerably increased since then. The population of the Protectorate is roughly estimated at 152,000. Arrangements for taking a new census in 1911 have been made, and it is hoped that with the advance of education a nearer indication of the exact numbers may be obtained.

The number of births registered in Bathurst and the Colony proper, consisting of the Island of St. Mary, was 294, and that in those parts of the Colony administered under the Protectorate system 69. The birth-rate of Bathurst was 33·3 per 1,000, against 32·3 in 1909. The deaths registered in Bathurst and St. Mary's Island were 302, and in those parts administered under the Protectorate system 83, making a total of 385, or 55 more than those reported in 1909. The increase in infantile mortality accounts for 29 of the above number. It will be noticed that the number of deaths exceeded that of births by 22. The number of births and deaths in the Protectorate proper is not obtainable.

There were 22 marriages solemnised in Bathurst during the year as against 19 in 1909.

During the year 157 Europeans, including females, resided in the Colony and the Protectorate. Of these 51 were officials and 106 non-officials. The only two deaths among the Europeans were those of a man landed from a steamer *en route* for Europe and of a labourer on board the cable ship during her stay in the Colony.

There are 42 Friendly Societies registered in Bathurst.

The general health of the Colony remains good. In Bathurst, the sanitary work is controlled by a Board of Health, consisting of the Senior Medical Officer as chairman, the Colonial Engineer

ex-officio, and six members nominated by the Governor. During the year a special grant of £1,000 was sanctioned by the Secretary of State for sanitary purposes, and part of it was expended in providing sanitary dust-bins for the collection of rubbish and in the erection of three incinerators for the rapid disposal of refuse, which, after being burnt, is used to fill up depressions. The Board continues to give close attention to anti-malarial work in clearing water-courses and removing receptacles which might form breeding-places for mosquitoes.

The Gambia now shares with the Colony of Sierra Leone the services of a Senior Sanitary Officer, who put in his first period of residence in this Colony during this past year and made many recommendations regarding the improvement of the sanitary conditions and the water supply.

The free issue of quinine mixture at the Hospital to all comers, and the regular issue thereof to all children attending school and also to members of the Police Force and to men of the company of the West African Frontier Force and their wives and families continues. During the more unhealthy months notices regarding the free issue of quinine are widely posted up, and the public are coming in increased numbers to take advantage of this prophylactic treatment. The experiment of issuing quinine to school children weekly at the Hospital during the holidays (which occur at the most unhealthy time of the year) has met with considerable success, the parents and school teachers having encouraged the children to attend.

The practice of sleeping in mosquito-proof rooms or under mosquito curtains is invariable among the Europeans and is being adopted by some of the more educated natives. All Government officials are provided with mosquito-proof cubicles and also with separate mosquito-proof shelters, in which they can sit and work or read during the day. This latter provision is probably the cause of the smaller number of days spent by European officials on the sick list on account of malaria during the past year and of the general improvement in their health.

A considerable advance in the number of tanks for the storage of drinking water, obtained from the roofs of houses, was made in the past year. In addition to extra tanks supplied to Government quarters and the provision of the large Accra pattern tank, holding 10,000 gallons, for some quarters, a portion of the aforementioned grant of £1,000 was expended in the importation of thirty-five 400 gallons tanks, which have been issued to certain persons in the town who are refunding the cost by instalments.

The public wells are gradually being fitted with Jonets Water Elevators which have proved a great success, as they are very efficient in preventing pollution of the water and, further, they render the wells fly-proof. Six new wells have been sunk in Bathurst during the year.

To assist the inhabitants of Half Die, a district which suffers severely from inundation during the rainy season, a tramway line to the shore, together with trucks, was supplied, and the people

were encouraged to use their leisure in carting sand to improve the condition of their yards. They responded very fairly to the occasion, but it is difficult to deal with so large a question unless the funds of the Colony would allow a comprehensive scheme of filling in depressions and drainage to be taken up.

The survey of Bathurst has now been commenced by a party of Royal Engineers, lent by the Ordnance Survey of England, and it is to be hoped that the detailed survey of the town that will be obtained will be of great assistance in aiding schemes to be devised for more advanced sanitary and drainage operations.

The war against mosquitoes and the extermination of their breeding-places has been actively pursued under considerable disadvantages, but it is hoped that, with the appointment of a European Town Warden and a larger sanitary staff, considerable progress will be made in the current year. Lectures on elementary hygiene and sanitation continue to be given to school teachers, and a simple course is to be added to the curriculum of the schools.

In the Protectorate the special attention of the Commissioners and the Protectorate Medical Officer is given to the sanitation of the towns and villages, and the practice of awarding prizes to the cleanest villages in each Province is maintained. At the same time it is to be feared that it must be a long time before the Chiefs and headmen will realize the necessity for systematic cleaning and sanitation; at present only in the expectation of a visit from the Commissioner or the Governor is anything done.

During the month of February a small outbreak of small-pox occurred among the men of the West African Frontier Force at Cape St. Mary Camp. Every precaution was taken to prevent an epidemic; only three soldiers and one follower were attacked by the disease, and all made good recoveries.

There were no other cases reported during the year. There were 1,011 vaccinations performed in Bathurst and 336 by the Commissioners and Protectorate Medical Officer in the Protectorate. The lymph was imported, as in previous years, from the Incorporated Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology, but although the same precautions were taken to preserve its activity the results obtained were not as good as last year, which has resulted in less successful returns from the Protectorate.

The climate of the Gambia during the dry season, from the beginning of December to the middle of May, is pleasant and not unhealthy. During the wet season the conditions are much the same as elsewhere on the West Coast of Africa, but, probably on account of the great change from extreme dryness to close, damp, and enervating weather, it is felt more here than in other places where the climate is more humid throughout the year. A meteorological station of the second class is maintained at Bathurst.

The average minimum and maximum temperature for the year was over two degrees higher than in 1909. The total rainfall registered in Bathurst in 1910 was 44·0 inches as compared with 56·99 inches in 1909.

The meteorological return for the year is as shown below:—

Months.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.
January	51	93	57	36	75·0	—	East
February	53	101	62	39	86·5	—	North
March	54	100	62	38	81·0	—	"
April	56	104	62	42	83·0	—	"
May...	60	91	64	27	77·5	—	"
June	60	95	70	25	82·5	1·15	Variable
July	64	93	70	23	81·5	11·98	"
August	60	93	62	31	77·5	16·60	"
September	55	90	60	30	75·0	11·52	"
October	60	92	79	22	81·0	2·75	"
November	55	95	68	27	81·5	—	East
December	47	93	62	31	77·5	—	"
Total ...	675	1,140	778	371	959·5	44·00	—
Monthly average ...	64·5	95·0	64·8	30·9	79·9	8·8	—

MAIL, POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

There is nominally a fortnightly service between Liverpool and Bathurst by the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company under the management of Messers. Elder, Dempster and Company, but the steamers of these companies, as regards both their arrival and departure from Bathurst, are rarely, if ever, up to their scheduled time, and in consequence the period between despatch and receipt of posts is frequently of three weeks, and occasionally of longer, duration. One of the Woermann Line of steamers from Hamburg calls once each month at irregular intervals on the outward journey to Sierra Leone.

There is a regular fortnightly service by the Messageries Maritimes from Dakar to Bordeaux, which completes the journey in eight days as compared with fourteen days or longer by the Elder, Dempster boats to Liverpool. Dakar is only 90 miles from Bathurst, but as there is at present no regular steamship communication between the two ports the opportunity of joining the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes or those of the Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo (which call every three weeks at Dakar *en route* to Antwerp) is not to be relied upon. Bathurst is probably the worst served of all the larger ports on the West Coast as regards regular mail communication with Europe.

Internal communication by means of a river service is maintained by the use of the Government steamer H.M.C.S. "Mansah Kilah," and the various launches belonging to the commercial houses, which frequently run up to the trading stations distributed along the river bank. These steamers are always ready to accept passengers and freight. The cost of a passage from Bathurst to McCarthy Island, 153 miles, is £1 5*s*. first class and 12*s*. deck.

Post Office.

The total receipts during the year were £1,624, as compared with £2,325 in 1909 and £683 in 1908; and the expenditure £864, as against £820 in 1909.

The decrease of £701 in the receipts for 1910 is due to the fact that the sales of stamps to dealers have fallen by the considerable sum of £657. The profit for the year has been £760.

The money and postal order business is rapidly increasing, being £1,205 over that of 1909 and £1,920 over that of 1908. The growing increase is due to the more extensive use made by the public of the Post Office as a means of remitting money, and the advantage that is taken of the Post Office established at McCarthy since 1909 by the up-country traders in the conduct of their business.

The total value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the year is £12,626 3*s*. 7*d*., an increase of £7,778 0*s*. 4*d*. over the previous year.

The total number of letters and parcels dealt with during the year was 124,835, being an increase of 14,153 as compared with the preceding year.

Telegraph and Telephone.

The African Direct Telegraph Company has a station at Bathurst, the rate being 3*s*. 6*d*. per word to the United Kingdom, the Government having the privilege of sending cables at half rates. There is no inland telegraph line. All Government Departments and the Bank of British West Africa are connected by telephone, and there is a further telephone connection with Cape St. Mary at the mouth of the river, a distance of about seven miles from Bathurst.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Public Works.

The dredging operations to deepen the river channel at Kai Hai have made considerable progress during the year. The quantity of material removed from the bed of the river and deposited on the bank was 18,750 tons, as compared with 10,000 tons in the previous year. In judging of the amount of the work accomplished, it must be borne in mind that it is only possible to proceed for seven

months in the year owing to the heavy floods during the rainy season, and that the continuity of the work is in consequence much hampered.

Steamers drawing 13 feet can now pass with safety at high water ordinary spring tides.

The cost of the enterprise since its commencement, including dredger, special steam launch, and lighters, has been £19,450, of which £2,210 has been expended during the past year.

The causeway at Jeshwang, which, after the Creek bridge, is the principal means of connection with the Protectorate and the Island of St. Mary, has been repaired. A length of 1,450 feet was entirely repiled with split rhun palms and the roadway re-formed.

The new hospital at McCarthy Island with brick walls, steel roof, and standards for verandahs and concrete floors forming one European, two native, and one isolation wards, was commenced during the year, and is now nearing completion.

In Bathurst, the " Old Military Hospital " was entirely renovated and modernised at a cost of £4,408; it now forms most excellent quarters for one married and two single officers, and is the best built house so far erected in the Colony.

The tramway line has been extended from Wellington Street to Buckle street. The huts in the W.A.F.F. Lines have been reroofed with tin and a considerable section rebuilt in consequence of a fire. One of the incinerators was completed and another almost brought to completion. A new roof has been placed on Government House, Cape St. Mary. A mortising machine has been added to the machinery in the Public Works Department workshops.

Mention has already been made of the mosquito shelters that have been erected during the year in all official quarters.

Social Conditions of the People.

The rates of wages in the Gambia compared with other places on the West Coast are high, and, in consequence of increased trade and the advance in the planting industry, labour has been more than usually scarce during the past year. As the climatic conditions will not admit of European labour being employed, the only persons who could in any way compete with the natives would be the inhabitants of the Cape de Verde and Canary Islands, who are already inured to a hot climate, and they might be usefully employed in farming, market gardening, and charcoal-burning.

The inhabitants of the professional, trading, and artisan class are well-to-do, and the wants of the labouring class being small they lead an easy existence without too much exertion. Native food-stuff is cheap and there is a plentiful supply of fish, and the cost of such clothing as is essential in a warm climate is not heavy.

The progress of the Colony has been steadily maintained. The financial and commercial position is sound, and the present season,

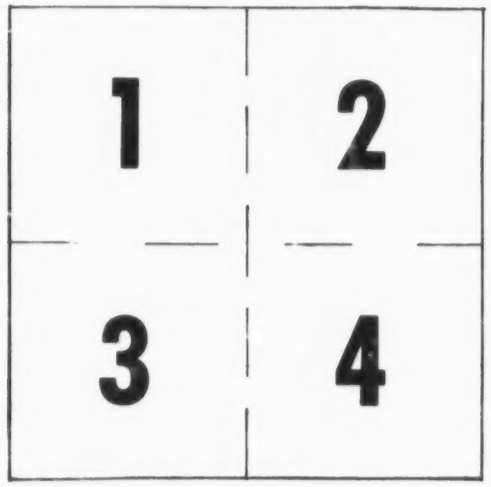
although the crop will not be as large as in the year under review, or possibly of the year before, promises to be a good one, as prices remain exceptionally high and trade is flourishing.

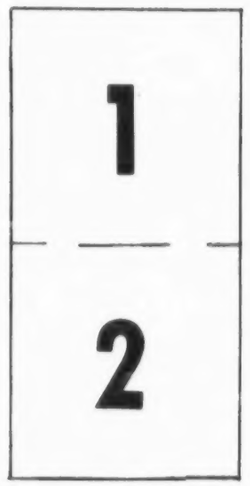
The development of the Protectorate can be judged from the advance in the ground-nut industry, and the larger tonnage of vessels entered and cleared. With a more general dispersion of money the purchasing power and the wants of the people have increased, and these factors have not been lost sight of by the merchants. The country is very quiet and the people have had no ills to contend against, and so are contented and happy.

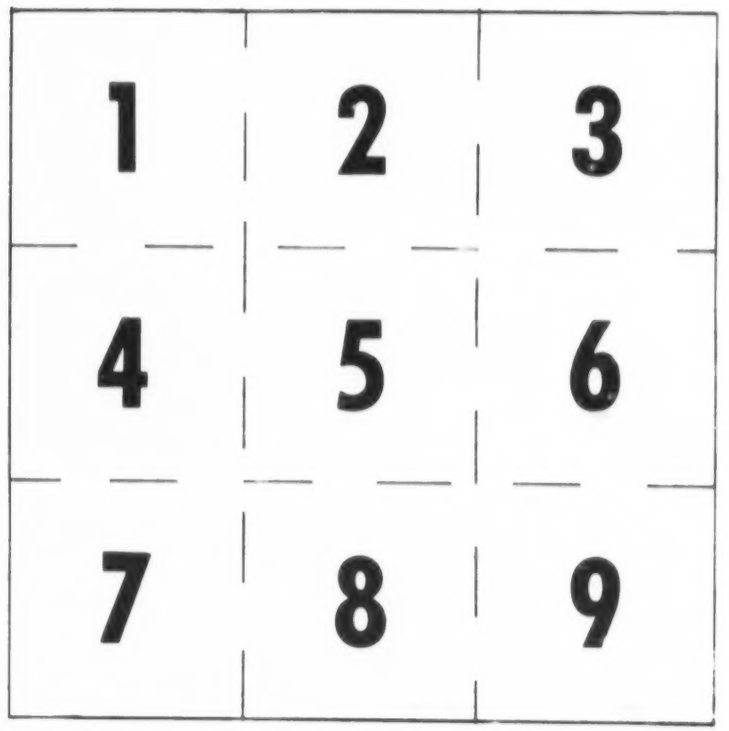
C. R. M. O'Brien,
Lieutenant-Colonel,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
8th March, 1911.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.







GAMBIA

A 16°30′ B C 16°0′ D E 15°30′ F G

14°0′ 1 2 3 13°30′

NIUMI-BATO

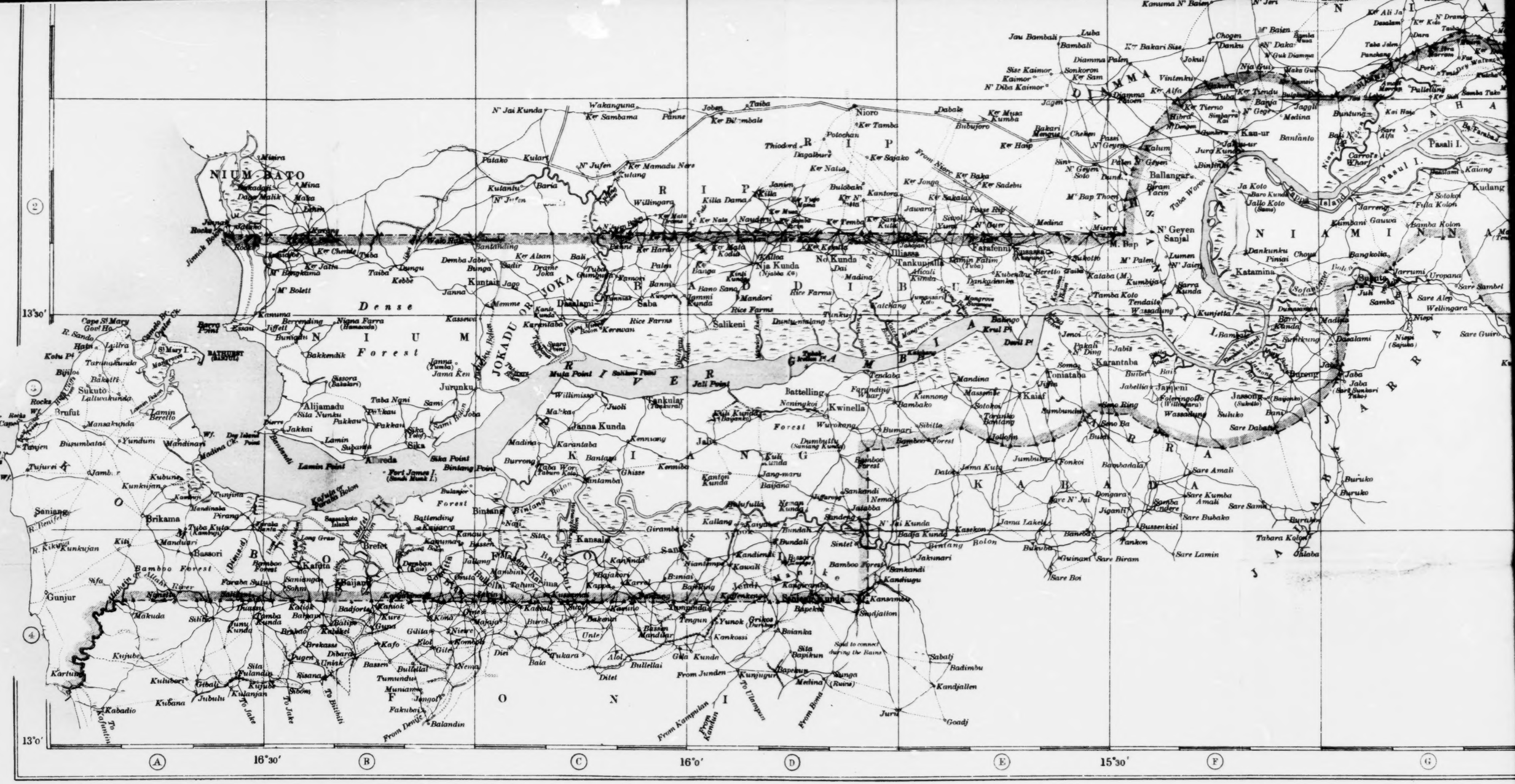
Misira Mina Barkadaji Dasse Malik Maka Ediri Jinack Island Rocks Jokako Kerang Ker Chendé Taba Ker Jatta M' Bangtama M' Bolett Tuba Dungu Kebbé Demba Jabu Binga Ker Alsan Badir Draine Joka Kuntair Jago Janna Memme Kanuma Berrending Nigna Furra (Hamacolla) Barra Point Essau Jiffell Bunkulin Cape St Mary Govt Ho. E. Sanda Yaitu Jallra Kotu Pt Bijilos Bakatti Turnukunda Bakau Sukuto Lallunkunda Rocks Bijol Pt. Bald Cape Brufut Wf. Mansakunda Tanjen Busumbatas Yunduni Mandinari Wf. Dog Island Point Sulifor Pt. Rocks Tujuri Jambur Kubune Kunkujan Kunkujan Kanteyi Tunjinta Mandinaba Pirang Saniang Brikama Taba Kuta (Kamagu) R. Kiwul Kunkujan Kitti Mandwari Bassori Dense Forest Jurunku Alijamadu Nita Nunku Pakkau Taba Nani Sami Jakkai Lamin Subanta Albreda Lamin Point Fort James (Sanah Munk I.) Sika Sika Point Bintang Point Bintang Bolon Bintang Forest Battending Kanawuro Kanauk Brefet Kansala Kandiendi Kandali Kasekon Jama Lakeh Sare Lamin Sare Biram Sare Bubakeh Sare Kumba Amali Sare Samba Lenders Sare Amali Sare N' Jai Demgara Jiganti Bussenkiel Buruku Tahara Kafoo Jilaba Bakau Kunda Jakumari Sintet Badja Kunda Jalabba Nemakunda Nemakunda Sandeng Kaiyabar Kallang Kaiyabar Jiffarong Sankandi Nema Nemakunda Nemakunda Jalufulle Nemakunda Kantoi Kunda Jang-maru Baijano Kuli Kunda Bantang Ghisse Kemnung Karantaba Madina Burrong Taba Wara (Taburo Kota) Janna Kunda Makka Juoli Tankular (Nantura) Kuli Kunda (Nayanco) Kwinella Battelling Nani ukoi Jali Point Muta Point Salikeni Rice Farms Kassewa Xarantaba Jokadu or Joka Creek Dalalani Saba Kuntair Jago Kuntair Kunda Mandori Rice Farms Tenkular Dunto-malang Kerewan Jenna Kenu Jenna (Yumba) Sissora (Bassari) Dakkendik Jokadu or Joka Creek Jali Point Tankular (Nantura) Kuli Kunda (Nayanco) Kwinella Battelling Nani ukoi Kunnong Bambako Sotokoi Forest Wurokang Bumari Sibilla Dumbutto (Saniang Kunda) Bamboo Forest Jali Kuli Kunda Kantoi Kunda Jang-maru Baijano Nemakunda Jalufulle Nemakunda Nemakunda Jiffarong Sankandi Nema Kallang Kaiyabar Nemakunda Sandeng Kaiyabar Jalabba Nemakunda Nemakunda Kandiendi Kandali Sintet Badja Kunda Jakumari Bantang Bolon Jama Lakeh Kasekon Sare Biram Sare Lamin

GAMBIA

15°30′ G H 15°0′ I 14°30′ J K 14°0′ L 14°0′

1 2 3

Kanuma N' Baiam · N' Jeri · Bamba Mamadu · Pata · Madina · Sin Biram · Sintu Sali · Kumbija Sawaa · Kr Ali Ja · Dasalam · N' Drama · Kr Kolo · Dara · Tasho · Thatior Makhang · Sin Mocia · Sali · Jamjam · M' Burr · Chogm · M' Baiam · Danku · Kr Bakari Sise · N' Dakar · Jokul · N' Guk Dampa · Taba Jalen · Panchang · Hora Barrow · Fas Walera · Bara · Maka Gui · Kuo · Kr Anna · Vintenku · Nja Gui · Kr Alfa · Kr Tierno · Tuba · Tendu · Baiya · Jaggli · N' Gege · Medina · Hibra · Simbarra Kai · Kau-ur · Bantanto · Juro Kunda · Ballangar · Biram · Jacin · Ja Koto · Baro Kunda · Jallo Koto (Same) · Sotoko · Fula Kolon · Jarreng · Kudang · Kumbani Gauwa · Bamba Kolon · N' Geyen Sanjal · Dankunku · Piniai · Chaya · Katamina · Bangkolia · Jarrumi · Uropana · Sare Alep · Wellingara · Sare Sambel · Niaga (Sajuka) · Sare Guiro · Kumba Turo · Pata · Sare Gidi Balo · Temento · Bundu Sambu · Chagi (Trails) · Sare Amali · Sare Kumba Amali · Sare Bubako · Sare Lamin · Tabara Kolon · Jalaba · Buruko · Sare Dabato · Jassong (Sukuta) · Bajonko · Wassadung · Suluko · Bani · Jabi · Karantaba · Bailel · Jabellisa · Jajineni · Folaringolla (Willingara) · Sano Ring · Sano Ba · Bambadala · Bussenkiel · Tankon · Sare Biram · Jabang · Jaba · Sare Sunbari Taba · Barong · Dasalami · Madina · Sare Sirring · Kunjitta · Wassadung · Tendaile · M' Palen · N' Jaien · Lumen · Kumbija · Tamba Koto · Sarra Kunda · Nofaye · Dumbasang · Larro Kunda · Pisania · Jabang · Bamba · Taba Boro · Taba Nani · Kunting · Rocks · Sololo (F.) · Sololo (M.) · Bansang Tenda · Bantanto · Tankon Kunda · Sambai · Dobo · Silera (Silers Ba) · Tabato · Sare Boyda · Sare Yoro Beri · Buruko Jato · Boraba · Patchari (M.) · Patchari (F.) · Solo Kunda · Kaiaf Kunda · Bantanti · Tasili · Kuiju · Ymna · Tandi Kunda · Tabanding · Sami · Jamarli · Bamboo Forest · Bikuma · Sepet · Kolli Kunda · Manna (M.) · Marchang Id · Ka-ai · Walli Kunda · Rice Farms · Sukutta · Baraali · Madiri (Tenenfara) · Kuntaur · Nema · Kuiran · Fadia · Tuba Jalen · Panchang · Kanuma · Demba Kunda · Kanuma (F.) · Boran Kunda · Sare Dembaru · Taba Nani · Runera · Changai · Jallal (F.) · Demba Kale · Jalubo · Kalen (F.) · Kololi · Kololi Kunda · Kololi Tenda · Kololi Kunda · Kololi Kunda · Kololi Kun


NIUMBATO
Dense Forest
JOKADU OR JOKA
Pasali I.
Pasaji Island
Ballangar
N' Geyen Sanjal
Katamina
Karantaba
Jaba
Jasong
Toniataba
Battelling
Kwinella
Salikeni
Illiasse
Tankunjalla
Farafenni
Jokibo
Kudang
Bangkolia
Jarrumi
Uropana
Sare Sambel
Sare Alep
Wellingarà
Sare Guiro
Niaga
Dasalami
Jarreng
Sotokoi
Fula Kolon
Kumbani Gauwa
Bamba Kolon
Dankunku
Pinsai
Choya
Lumen
N' Jaiey
Sukoto
Kataba (M.)
Kumbija
Tamba Koto
Tendaila
Wassadung
Kunjetta
Sarra Kunda
Jabli
Jabellia
Japjeni
Kolorongotto (Willingara)
Wassadung
Suluko
Bani
Sare Dabaka
Sare Amali
Sare Kumba Amali
Sare Bubako
Sare Samir
Buruko
Tabara Kolon
Oklaba
Sare Biram
Sare Lamin
Sare Boi
Bussenkiel
Tankon
Jakunari
Guinani
Jama Lakeli
Bamboo Forest
Sankandi
Kandiugu
Kansimbo
Sandjallon
Badimbu
Kandjallen
Sabatj
Juru
Goadj
Bapekun
Kunjugun
Melina (Ruins)
Sita Bapikun
Kansala
Kandemdi
Bundali
Sintel
Jakabba
Kasekon
Jama Kuta
Fonkoi
Bambadala
Jumbutu
Dumbutu (Samiang Kunda)
Kallang
Karyabe
Jang-maru
Baiana
Kantos Kunda
Jalang
Giramba
Sita
Kansala
Kankenda
Bantanto
Jau Bambali
Luba
Bambali
Kr Bakari Sise
Chogen Danku
N' Daka
Jokul
Diamma Palen
Sise Kaimor
Kaimor
N' Diba Kaimor
Sonkoron
Kr Sam
Vintenku
Kr Alfa
Kr Tierno
Kr Tiendu
Tuba
Banja
Jaggil
N' Gegi
Madina
Kau-ur
Nioro
Kr Tamba
Dabale
Bubujoro
Kr Musa Kumba
Bakari Mengisa
Kr Hasp
Chekun
Pasi N' Geyen
Kalum
Jura Kunda
Binjinki
Kanuma N' Baien
N' Jeri
M' Baien
Kr Ali Ja
Dasalam
Kr Kalo
N' Drama
Taba Jolen
Panchang
Dara
Pallelling
Kr Sak
Kau Hasi
Buntung
Sare Alfa
Bai Farsha
Jaggili
Kr Musa
Kr Sajako
Kr Natua
Kr Jonga
Kr Sadebu
Kr Baka
Kr Sakala
Jawara
Sowol Yurra
Pasee Rig
N' Baiw
Madina
Kr Sambla Kuta
Kr Tembo
Kr Kabello
Kr Malo Kodia
Kr Hardo
Kr Alsan
Kr Jatta
Kr Chenda
Kr Bangkama
M' Bolett
Kr Sambama
Wakanguna
N' Jai Kunda
Joben
Taiba
Fanne
Kr Bambala
Kr Namadu Nera
N' Jufen
Kulang
Kutanku
Barra
Kularr
Patako
Misira
Mina
Maka
Ebun
Makadaji
Daga Malik
Jinnah Bolon
Rocks
Kr Jatta
Taiba
Kebbe
Tungu
Demba Jabi
Bunga
Kuntair
Jago
Janna
Sadir
Drame Joka
Bali
Tuba
Gumbuk
Samori
Banna
Kr Kunda
Palen
Kr Banga
Kinti Kunda
Kr Kunda
Kr Kabello
Nja Kunda (Njaba Ko)
No Kunda
Dai
Madina
Rice Farms
Mandori
Tammi Kunda
Saba
Dasalami
Kanta Kunda
Kr Bano Sano

Scale $\frac{1}{500,000}$ or Four Inches to 8 Miles

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 Miles

5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 Kilometres

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COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	1909
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong...	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	1909
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements...	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909–1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony, &c.	Subject.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.

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1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 718.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 679.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1912.

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No. 718.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 679.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Extract.)

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
1st June, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1911, together with a Report thereon prepared by Mr. D. Kingdon, Acting Colonial Secretary.

I am very much indebted to Mr. Kingdon for drawing up the Report. When Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien went sick in February last, Mr. Kingdon, before he was aware I intended appointing him Acting Colonial Secretary, volunteered to prepare the Report in his spare time. He has, since Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien was invalided, performed the triple duties of Acting Colonial Secretary, Legal Assistant, and Inspector of Schools.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALWAY,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(25282—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 8/12. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1911.

FINANCIAL.

1. For the third successive year the Colony's revenue exceeded previous records: it amounted in 1911 to £86,454 0*s*. 9*d*. as compared with £82,880 7*s*. 4*d*. in 1910 and £72,675 11*s*. 10*d*. in 1909.

2. The estimated revenue for the year was £65,872, which was exceeded by £20,582.

3. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1910 and 1911, with the several increases or decreases:—

Head of Revenue.	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	64,730	68,319	3,589	—
Port dues	1,076	1,102	26	—
Licences, Excise, &c.	1,854	1,832	—	22
Fees of Court, &c.	1,557	1,790	233	—
Post Office	1,624	1,812	188	—
Rent of Government Property	351	364	13	—
Government Vessels	245	123	—	122
Interest	2,228	2,310	82	—
Protectorate	7,918	7,616	—	302
Miscellaneous Receipts	966	704	—	262
Land Sales	331	482	151	—
Total	82,880	86,454	4,282	708

4. The increases were due to general improvement in trade.

5. The decreases were due to less licences being issued, to the breakdown of the "Mansah Kilah," and to less receipts being taken in the Protectorate for farm rents and hut tax.

6. The amount of revenue under "Customs" was:—import duty, £52,373; and export duty, £15,946—total, £68,319.

7. The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1910 and 1911, with the respective increases and decreases:—

Heads of Receipts.	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ad valorem	9,871	10,599	728	—
Wine	1,130	1,308	178	—
Spirits	8,183	10,512	2,329	—
Malt Liquor	137	218	81	—
Tobacco	3,628	4,471	843	—
Oils, Turps, &c.	823	890	67	—
Sugar	3,938	5,633	1,695	—
Kola Nuts	13,920	14,350	430	—
Rice	2,444	3,140	696	—

Heads of Receipts.	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Guns and Pistols	467	354	—	113
Powder	127	83	—	44
Salt	355	387	32	—
Kerosene	215	442	227	—
Coffee, Raw	11	8	—	3
Ground-nuts	19,485	15,977	—	3,508
Total Customs	64,734	68,372	7,306	3,668
Buoyage	744	722	—	22
Warehouse Rent	117	229	112	—
Petroleum Magazine Rent ...	115	20	—	95
Wharfage	333	381	48	—
Total	66,043	69,724	7,466	3,785

8. The expenditure for the year amounted to £71,390, being an increase of £8,089 on that of the previous year.

The following return shows the items of expenditure for the two years:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities ...	1,511	1,732	221	—
The Governor	4,030	4,078	48	—
The Colonial Secretary	1,072	1,379	307	—
The Protectorate	6,328	6,497	169	—
Printing Department	450	416	—	34
Receiver General's Department	3,301	3,895	594	—
Post Office	865	593	—	272
Audit Department	476	659	183	—
Legal Department	1,791	1,812	21	—
Education	1,999	1,965	—	34
Frontier Force	5,737	6,010	273	—
Police	3,839	3,957	118	—
Volunteers	68	84	16	—
Prisons	984	923	—	61
Medical Department	5,514	6,435	921	—
Government Vessels	2,791	2,446	—	345
Charitable Allowances	113	105	—	8
Transport	422	910	488	—
Miscellaneous Services	6,211	5,950	—	261
Drawback and Refund of Duties	49	274	225	—
Agriculture	640	1,065	425	—
Colonial Engineer's Department	2,115	2,658	543	—
Public Works Recurrent ...	5,170	4,835	—	335
Do. Extraordinary ...	7,825	12,712	4,887	—
Total	63,301	71,390	9,439	1,350

9. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the last ten years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	51,016	51,536
1903	55,564	67,504
1904	54,179	52,300
1905	51,868	72,297
1906	65,430	56,988
1907	65,892	57,729
1908	57,898	61,097
1909	72,675	56,237
1910	82,880	63,301
1911	86,454	71,390

10. No additional taxation was introduced during the year.

11. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1911, was £92,818 8*s*. 9*d*., as compared with £75,322 15*s*. 3*d*. on the 31st December, 1910, and £56,013 1*s*. 5*d*. on the 31st December, 1909. The surplus funds are invested in Government securities, and on 31st December, 1911, the amount of stock held was £41,338 18*s*. 11*d*., of which the cost price was £40,375 6*s*. 9*d*. There was also a sum of £45,000 on deposit with the London County and Westminster Bank. The Colony has no public debt.

12. The English coinage is current in the Colony, and the silver coins from the florin downwards are those most commonly used, silver being legal tender up to any amount. Certain foreign coins are also legal tender, but the only important one is the French five-franc piece, of which a great many are in circulation; their official exchange value is 3*s*. 10½*d*. Bank of England notes are not legal tender, but are accepted at the Bank of British West Africa, the only bank in Bathurst. The circulation is small.

The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London at the close of the year was 1 per cent.

13. There are two Municipal Boards in the Colony, namely the Board of Health and the McCarthy Square Board. Each Board is composed of official and non-official members and presided over by the Senior Medical Officer.

14. The revenue of the Board of Health is derived from a 3 per cent. rate levied on the annual value of lots in the town of Bathurst, from slaughter-house fees, and from a Government grant-in-aid.

The revenue in 1911 was:—Local rates, £748; market and slaughter-house fees, £77; grant-in-aid, £1,405; miscellaneous, £7; total, £2,237, as compared with £1,286 in 1910.

15. The expenditure under all heads, including personal emoluments, scavenging, lighting, upkeep of horses and carts, &c., amounted to £2,199, as compared with £1,443 in 1910.

16. McCarthy Square is situated in the centre of the town, and is used as a parade ground by the West African Frontier Force and as a general recreation ground. Its upkeep is provided for by a grant from Government.

TRADE.

17. The trade of the Colony continues to increase rapidly; in 1911 the total value of the trade inwards and outwards was £1,499,154, compared with £1,114,430 in 1910.

18. *Imports.*—The total value of all imports was £807,118, against £578,983 in 1910.

19. The following table shows the imports classified so as to distinguish commercial from Government imports and specie for the last five years:—

Return of imports, 1907-1911.

Year.	Government Imports.	Commercial Imports.	Bullion & Specie.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1907	7,050	288,941	149,368	445,359
1908	7,105	238,344	145,290	390,739
1909	6,394	251,546	146,620	404,560
1910	8,341	362,099	208,544	578,984
1911	9,193	413,141	384,784	807,118

20. *Increases.*—The principal heads under which there were increases are:—Tobacco, £7,286, due to failure of the native crop; kola nuts, £7,064, due to increase of trade; wine and spirits, £2,124 (*see* Table D.); sugar, £2,903; rice, £16,372, due to partial failure of the crop of native corn or "koos," and to the increasing tendency of the farmer to confine his attention to ground-nuts and give up the cultivation of rice, which can be purchased, and has also been issued in large quantities by the Government on easy terms of repayment.

21. *Decreases.*—There are decreases in—Cotton goods, £287, the value being £130,324 as against £130,611 in 1911; both these amounts being very largely in excess of any previous year; gunpowder, £295—199 barrels being imported compared with 404 in 1910; salt, £89.

22. *Specie.*—The value of specie imported during the year was £384,784, or £176,240 in excess of the previous year.

23. The percentages of the total imports, exclusive of specie, coming from the various countries, are as follows:—

United Kingdom	44·4	
British Colonies	17·6	
	——	62
France and French Colonies ...	—	20·4
Germany	—	13·4
America	—	1·6
Other Countries	—	2·6

24. *Exports.*—The total value of all exports was £682,036, against £535,447 in 1910.

25. The principal articles of export were ground-nuts, rubber, palm kernels, wax, hides, and ivory.

Ground-nuts.—Though the crop of ground-nuts did not reach the size shown by the record figures reached in the two previous

years, it was yet the third largest recorded, and as the nuts fetched an exceptionally high price the value of the crop was easily in excess of that of any previous year. The amount exported was 47,931 tons, valued at £437,472, compared with 58,456 tons in 1910, valued at £387,943. It is this higher price paid for nuts and consequent increased spending power of the people which is mainly responsible for the all-round improvement in trade.

Except for the "picked nuts," which go to England, the bulk of the product is exported to France to be crushed in the oil-mills.

Rubber.—The export increased from 7,148 to 10,733 lbs., but the value was £116 less.

Palm Kernels.—The amount exported was 444 tons, or 23 tons less than in 1910. The trade in this article might be much greater if the natives would clean it better, but effective cleaning is difficult owing to the small size of the kernel, due to continual tapping of the palm trees.

Wax has increased in value by £240, the amount being 33,871 lbs. against 35,718 lbs. in 1910.

Hides have decreased in value by £3,703, the number being 28,754 compared with 38,041 in the previous year.

Ivory has decreased from 1,710 lbs. in 1910 to 1,024 lbs. in 1911.

26. The following return shows the principal articles of export, with their values, for 1910 and 1911 respectively:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1910.	1911.	1910.	1911.		
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts	58,456	47,931	387,943	437,472	49,529	—
Palm Kernels ...	467	447	5,640	4,758	—	882
	lbs.	lbs.				
Rubber	7,148	10,733	952	836	—	116
Wax	25,718	33,871	1,274	1,514	240	—
Ivory	1,710	1,024	257	215	—	42
	No.	No.				
Hides	38,041	28,754	11,310	7,607	—	3,703

27. The following comparative statement shows the development of the ground-nut trade during the last ten years:—

Table A.—Return showing Quantity and Value of Ground-nuts and Palm Kernels exported during the Years 1902–1911.

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Ground-nuts.	31,612	45,477	43,436	29,499	36,050	40,858	31,964	53,644	58,846	47,931
VALUE	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ground-nuts.	193,485	275,394	229,287	169,426	278,055	256,685	245,084	323,231	387,943	437,472
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Palm Kernels.	137	109	179	227	256	342	390	389	467	444
VALUE	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Palm Kernels.	945	793	1,132	1,612	2,122	3,657	3,488	3,526	5,640	4,758

28. *Specie.*—The value of specie exported during the year was £215,575, compared with £112,194 in 1910.

29. Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, 84·8 per cent. went to France and her Colonies, 6·3 per cent. to Great Britain and her Colonies, 5·6 per cent. to Germany, 3·2 to Holland, and 0·1 to other countries.

30. This large proportion in favour of France is due to the fact that, of the five principal trading firms in the Colony, four are French and one English.

31. The following table gives the total imports and exports for the last five years :—

Table B.

Countries.	Imports.					Exports.				
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ...	186,356 5 4	133,824 14 4	187,546 0 6	233,737 1 3	272,501 2 10	26,573 0 9	51,196 11 8	38,897 11 5	38,609 12 11	63,611 15 9
British Colonies—										
Sierra Leone ...	63,484 5 3	78,133 17 8	46,376 4 8	66,577 12 11	74,474 4 9	7,797 4 6	3,228 7 6	898 17 9	19,290 19 8	26,292 5 5
Gold Coast	0 5 0	1 15 0	20 12 6	—	1 14 6	9 4 6	—	494 5 6	7,259 15 9	7,224 18 0
Nigeria	51 13 6	5,057 19 6	15,641 12 1	131 18 7	36 13 6	27,868 9 6	12,361 0 0	27,077 13 0	24,407 18 0	9,200 12 6
Foreign Countries—										
Belgium	148 14 4	159 1 5	36 7 8	—	—	—	—	2,443 8 10	52 14 6	—
China	—	—	11 16 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark	—	—	—	—	41 13 1	—	6,621 9 6	7,507 10 0	—	—
France	146,064 16 11	115,705 12 3	106,671 2 8	196,095 2 11	385,756 0 9	293,630 13 6	267,337 14 8	341,714 11 2	404,708 7 2	488,825 5 9
French Colonies ...	10,967 7 4	34,208 12 5	16,848 8 8	41,465 2 10	262 10 7	35,202 8 8	7,839 4 9	15,596 5 2	13,311 7 9	45,433 7 9
Germany	30,527 9 8	19,294 0 5	18,703 19 6	30,239 13 6	56,570 12 3	8,116 4 10	8,364 7 6	14,878 15 4	8,893 15 9	26,284 2 7
Holland	1,780 6 8	1,393 2 3	1,072 18 9	1,076 17 11	4,195 16 8	7,281 12 0	11,729 5 6	12,949 8 6	17,580 0 0	14,679 0 0
Italy	—	—	7 14 4	111 2 6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liberia	—	—	2 10 0	4 0 4	—	1,537 12 6	6 4 0	14,577 16 0	9 0 3	63 2 1
Morocco	—	—	788 10 1	2,520 5 11	2,461 17 6	—	—	—	—	—
Norway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,176 0 0	—	—	—
Palestine	—	—	—	30 3 0	8 2 2	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese Colonies	3,469 1 7	2,537 9 4	2,776 11 7	2,714 10 0	1,631 12 0	459 1 7	277 5 0	450 17 6	1,323 17 11	32 4 0
Spanish Colonies ...	—	—	—	—	852 10 1	—	—	—	—	386 0 0
Sweden	—	—	517 10 5	914 1 7	1,648 13 8	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland ...	—	—	—	5 10 6	—	—	—	—	—	—
U.S. America ...	2,558 18 2	423 11 5	7,538 5 7	3,359 18 6	6,565 10 10	—	—	477 0 0	—	3 8 0
Egypt	—	—	—	—	108 18 0	—	—	—	—	—
Total	445,359 4 9	390,739 15 7	404,560 5 2	578,983 2 3	807,117 13 2	408,475 12 4	374,137 10 1	477,964 0 2	535,447 9 8	682,036 1 10

32. *Shipping.*—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 443, with an aggregate tonnage of 480,911, compared with 457 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 506,914 in 1910. This decrease is due to the quarantine restrictions imposed in consequence of the yellow fever outbreaks in Bathurst and other ports on the West Coast of Africa.

33. The following comparative table shows the classification, tonnage, and nationality of all vessels entered during the last five years :—

Table C.

Nationality of Vessels.	1907.			1908.			1909.			1910.			1911.		
	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ...	304,261	242	304,503	300,827	460	301,287	338,209	395	338,604	323,193	687	323,880	287,092	588	287,680
French ...	61,956	1,903	63,859	45,882	1,908	47,790	64,042	724	64,766	66,910	674	67,584	79,740	958	80,698
German ...	40,422	—	40,422	25,870	—	25,870	31,734	—	31,734	33,188	—	33,188	39,519	—	39,519
Russian ...	9,038	—	9,038	4,392	—	4,392	6,098	—	6,098	12,874	—	12,874	13,124	—	13,124
American ...	—	1,442	1,442	—	1,130	1,130	—	1,430	1,430	—	—	—	1,146	507	1,653
Norwegian ...	18,722	—	18,722	2,690	—	2,690	9,139	—	9,139	12,382	—	12,382	15,969	—	15,969
Portuguese ...	740	830	1,570	—	1,036	1,036	—	2,300	2,300	—	1,561	1,561	—	3,205	3,205
Danish ...	9,204	—	9,204	19,322	—	19,322	13,074	—	13,074	16,040	—	16,040	9,508	648	10,156
Swedish ...	—	—	—	1,688	224	1,912	—	224	224	2,184	654	2,838	7,194	—	7,194
Greek	5,024	—	5 024	13,012	—	13,012	20,070	—	20,070	23,503	—	23,503	7,536	—	7,536
Dutch	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,086	—	3,086	6,032	—	6,032	—	—	—
Spanish ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,438	—	5,438	—	—	—	2,446	175	2,621
Italian ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,032	—	7,032	5,784	—	5,784
Belgian ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,772	—	5,772
Total ...	449,367	4,417	453,784	413,683	4,758	418,441	490,890	5,073	495,963	503,338	3,576	506,914	474,830	6,081	480,911

Table D.

Articles.	1907.				1908.				1909.				1910.				1911.			
	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.
	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£
Alcohol	—	—	4s. per gallon.	—	13	3	4s. and 4s. 2d. per gallon.	—	—	—	4s. 2d. per gallon.	—	—	—	4s. 2d. per gallon.	—	23	3	4s. 2d. per gallon.	8
Brandy...	279	187		58	180	138		38	104	74		22	215	147		42	326	280		69
Gin, Unsweetened ...	11,820	2,011		2,366	17,206	2,928		3,157	18,902	2,307		2,843	23,592	2,572		3,413	42,091	4,307		6,214
Rum	8,664	896		1,736	5,307	586		1,194	9,929	1,106		2,334	13,603	1,548		2,340	11,473	1,221		2,364
Spirit, Sweetened ...	2,690	852		543	3,323	936		683	4,660	1,179		980	9,364	1,991		2,026	6,868	1,688		1,445
Whisky	1,722	926		343	1,305	656		276	1,889	924		394	1,732	871		361	1,991	1,009		418
	25,175	4,872		5,046	27,334	5,247		5,348	35,484	5,590		6,573	48,506	7,129		8,133	62,777	8,508		10,518

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRIES, &c.

34. The cultivation of the ground-nut is still the main occupation of the native of Gambia, and its export is the business to which the trader gives the greater part of his attention. The ground-nut is in fact the only article which is actually cultivated for export; the other articles of export, such as rubber and palm kernels, are merely gathered from the natural products of the country.

35. The policy of the Government in issuing seed-nuts to the people, and so introducing fresh seed and insuring an interchange of seed from one district to another, is largely responsible for the increase in the crop of nuts during recent years, and for the consequent prosperity of the Colony and contentment of the people.

36. In addition to the ground-nut, the crops grown by the native farmers for their own consumption include rice and the African koos, or millet, of which there are several varieties.

37. There is a very great number of cattle throughout the Protectorate, in many places more than the country can properly support. Their breeding is not undertaken for profit; but large herds are kept merely as a display of wealth, and the natives are slow to part with their cattle.

38. An attempt has been made in recent years to improve the breed of cattle by the importation of Ayrshire bulls.

39. The Agricultural School at Abuko, started by the Roman Catholic Mission a few years ago, and subsidized by the Government, has not attained its object, and at the end of the year the Government subsidy was withdrawn.

40. Trading stations in the Protectorate are built on land granted by the Government at an annual rent of 1*s*. per square yard (minimum £3). The value of land in Bathurst varies according to situation.

LEGISLATION.

41. Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are of general interest:—

No. 4.—"An Ordinance to amend the Navigation and Pilotage Ordinance, 1904."

This Ordinance aims at making more safe the navigation of the River Gambia by night by requiring better lights to be carried by cutters.

No. 5.—"An Ordinance to amend the Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish Preservation Ordinance, 1901."

This Ordinance aims at the protection of the elephant by giving the Governor in Council powers to prevent the dealing in, or export of, small-sized tusks.

42. During the year Ordinance No. 1 of 1910, entitled "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Public Health and Police Regulations in the Island of Saint Mary," was brought into force.

The Ordinance repeals the Public Health Ordinance of 1887 and substitutes up-to-date sanitary provisions for the town of Bathurst.

EDUCATION.

43. With the exception of the Mohammedan School, education in the Colony is carried on entirely by the three Missionary Societies—Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic. For the schools of each of these denominations there is a European Superintendent, towards whose salary the Government pays £150 per annum in each case. A further grant-in-aid is made by the Government to schools affiliated in accordance with the Education Rules. This grant is based on the average attendance of

pupils and on the results of examinations conducted by the Government Inspector of Schools.

44. The Anglican body has one affiliated elementary school in Bathurst with 195 boys and girls on the register during the year. The Roman Catholic Mission has two affiliated elementary schools in Bathurst—one for boys, with 281 on the register, and the other for girls, with 150 on the register. This Society has also built a school at McCarthy Island during the year. The Wesleyan Mission has four affiliated elementary schools for boys and girls, of which two are in Bathurst, and total 570 pupils on the register; one is at McCarthy Island, with 71 on the register, and one in British Kommbo, with 38 on the register, though at the end of the year this latter was struck off the roll of affiliated schools, on the recommendation of the Government Inspector.

45. The Wesleyan Mission also supplies the only secondary and technical education in the Colony. It conducts a non-affiliated secondary school for boys in Bathurst, at which there are 29 pupils, and also a technical and industrial school for boys in Bathurst, with 19 pupils. This latter is affiliated to the Government, receives an annual grant-in-aid of £300, and is examined once a year by a Government nominee.

46. The Mohammedan School in Bathurst had 108 boys on its register during the year; it is managed by a Board of leading Mohammedans, with the Governor as chairman, whilst the Government pays the salaries of the teachers. Its time is equally divided between ordinary elementary education and Arabic work.

47. From the above it appears that the total number of children to receive education in the Colony during the year was 1,461.

48. Two examinations of the elementary schools were held during the year, namely, the Annual General Examinations in December and the Supplementary Examination, of the Lower Standards only, in June.

49. The total number of children presented at these examinations, including those from the Mohammedan School, was 943, and of these 517 obtained passes.

50. The income and expenditure of the elementary schools for 1911 are shown in the following table:—

Income.

School.	School Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hagan Street	23 14 10	158 13 0	*319 19 2	502 7 0
St. Joseph's Convent...	12 8 6	130 4 6	120 17 0	263 10 0
St. Mary's	16 10 5	103 19 8	*239 7 6	359 17 7
Dobson Street... ...	57 8 5½	23 18 0½	†265 4 9	346 11 3
Stanley Street... ...	38 6 3	42 19 1½	134 5 4	215 10 8½
McCarthy Island ...	5 16 11	22 7 1	25 6 0	53 10 0
Kommbo	0 6 1½	36 2 10½	2 0 6	38 9 6
Grand Total ...	154 11 6	518 4 3½	1,107 0 3	1.779 16 0½

* Includes grant of £150 to European Superintendents.

† Includes grant of £117 6*s.* 9*d.* to European Superintendent from 1st January to 12th October, 1911.

Expenditure.

School.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School Materials.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hagan Street...	—	1 11 0	55 5 0	439 1 0	6 10 0	502 7 0
St. Joseph's Convent.	38 0 0	2 10 0	6 4 0	216 16 0	—	263 10 0
St. Mary's ...	—	1 11 3	32 14 8	319 17 6	5 1s 2	359 17 7
Dobson Street	—	1 16 6	11 9 5	330 9 4	2 16 0	346 11 3
Stanley Street	—	—	7 15 11½	205 14 9	2 0 0	215 10 8½
McCarthyIsland	8 8 0	1 0 0	—	44 2 0	—	53 10 0
Kommbo ...	—	0 8 9	1 6 9	36 10 0	0 4 0	38 9 6
Grand Total	46 8 0	8 17 6	114 15 9½	1,592 10 7	17 4 2	1,779 16 0½

51. The technical and industrial school had a very successful year, doing work to the value of £675 13*s.* 3*d.*, which is a large increase on previous years. In particular a large number of mosquito-proof "cages" were made to order. But the work of the school includes carpentering, joinery, iron-work, and masonry; and the school is thus of general benefit to the community, apart from the value of its educational work.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

52. The Victoria Hospital at Bathurst has accommodation for the following patients:—Male, first class, 4; second class, 11; third class, 10; female, 15, including two cots for children, also four rooms for isolation cases. The female wards are situate in a separate building from the male.

53. The European ward, male division, is provided with mosquito-proof "cages" for each bed, and during the yellow-fever outbreaks which occurred in the course of the year the mosquito protection was found to be adequate. In the female division a small room with two beds has been made mosquito-proof. "Cages" for the other wards are in process of erection.

54. During the year a new hospital was opened at McCarthy Island, containing a European ward, two native wards (one male and one female), and an isolation ward. There is a resident Medical Officer in charge of it, and it is expected to prove a great boon not only to the people of McCarthy but also to those of all the surrounding districts.

55. There is a contagious diseases hospital situate two miles from Bathurst, which continues to prove of value. But there is a lack of proper quarantine accommodation, due largely to difficulty in finding a suitable site. Whilst there was yellow fever in Bathurst and neighbouring ports a Government building immediately opposite the Government Wharf was made thoroughly mosquito-proof, in case it should be required for quarantine purposes.

56. The establishment consists of a Senior Medical Officer and four other Medical Officers, all members of the West African Medical Staff. Of these the Senior Medical Officer and two others are resident in Bathurst—one is stationed at McCarthy Island and one is a Travelling Protectorate Medical Officer.

57. There are four European Nursing Sisters attached to the Victoria Hospital, and there is a staff of native dispensers, dressers, and nurses.

58. The total number of admissions to the Victoria Hospital during the year was 588, compared with 669 in 1910; the decrease is attributed to the increased use of quinine and better sanitation.

59. The number of new cases treated in the out-patient department was 7,255, compared with 7,440 in 1910.

60. 590 in-patients were treated during 1911, of whom 45 died in hospital.

61. Of these 45 deaths, nine were from yellow fever, two from blackwater fever, six from malarial fever, two from trypanosomiasis, two from tetanus, and one from tuberculosis.

62. The Home for the Afflicted and Destitute was improved during the year by the mosquito-proofing of the wards and of the attendant's quarters. There were five inmates at the end of 1910, and six more were admitted during the year; of this total of 11, three died during the year and eight were remaining as inmates at the end of 1911.

63. The Government Savings Bank is under the management of the Receiver-General. At the close of the year there were 470 accounts, as compared with 456 and 428 for 1910 and 1909 respectively. The amount remaining on deposit was £5,037 6*s*. 7*d*., as compared with £5,261 15*s*. 10*d*. and £4,411 5*s*. 4*d*. for 1910 and 1909 respectively. The amount deposited during the year was £2,453 8*s*. 11*d*., and that withdrawn £2,790 19*s*. 2*d*., while the interest payable was £121 11*s*. 11*d*.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

64. The Police Force consists of one European Superintendent, one European Assistant Superintendent, and eighty non-commissioned officers and men.

65. The duties of the force are almost entirely confined to the Island of Saint Mary; there is, however, a station at McCarthy Island, and there are a few constables stationed at other places in the Protectorate. Attached to the force is a Merryweather manual fire-engine, in the use of which selected men are instructed.

66. There is only one prison in the Colony. This is a very old building in Bathurst, and its structure does not admit of the segregation of prisoners under the modern system. The health of the prisoners has, however, been good—a fact, no doubt, due to the careful sanitary supervision which is exercised.

There was only one death during the year, and that was from heart failure.

67. The daily average of prisoners was 26·24, the largest during the last five years. At the beginning of the year there were 23 prisoners remaining from 1910, and 88 were admitted during the year. Of these, 69 were discharged on completion of their sentences; one had the unexpired portion of his sentence remitted, 12 were released on paying the fines for the non-payment of which they were imprisoned; one died; one escaped, and 27 were remaining in prison at the close of the year.

68. There were no death sentences passed during the year.

69. In addition to stone-breaking, prisoners are employed on Government work, and their earnings during the year are estimated at £204 15*s*. 9*d*.

70. The total number of cases brought before the Police Court in Bathurst was 235. This number is as nearly as possible the average during the last four years.

71. Of these, 77 resulted in acquittals and 139 in convictions, whilst there were 19 committals for trial before Supreme Court. A case of attempted murder was the only one of serious violence; the remainder were mostly for offences against property. No capital charge was preferred.

72. 367 cases were dealt with by the Travelling Commissioners and Native Tribunals in the Protectorate. The number is very much greater than those of the last two years, and is accounted for by the large number of special offences under the Protectorate Ordinance. Seven cases were sent forward by the Protectorate Courts for trial before the Supreme Court, the only one which need be mentioned being a charge of murder, in which the accused was still awaiting trial at the end of the year. He has since been acquitted.

73. Although there were a number of petty offences against property in Bathurst during the year, there is a continued and satisfactory absence of serious crime both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

74. A census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken during the year. Contrary to the opinion expressed in the 1910 Report, the population of the Island of Saint Mary was found to be smaller than at the time of the 1901 census, being 7,700 compared with 8,807 in 1901. Previous to the census, the population of the Protectorate (including those parts of the Colony administered under the Protectorate system) was estimated at 152,000; the census in 1911 proved this estimate to be excessive, for the population was found to be 138,401. These figures give a total of 146,101 inhabitants of the Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia.

75. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 262, and in those parts of the Colony administered under the Protectorate

system 44, compared with 294 and 69 respectively in 1910. The birth-rate in Bathurst was 34 per 1,000.

76. The number of deaths registered in Bathurst was 258, and in those parts of the Colony administered under the Protectorate system 60, compared with 302 and 83 respectively in 1910. The death-rate in Bathurst was 33·5 per 1,000.

77. There were 17 marriages solemnized in Bathurst during the year, as against 22 in 1910. There were three marriages solemnized at McCarthy Island.

78. At the beginning of the year there were 42 Friendly Societies registered in Bathurst; during the year one was dissolved and two new ones registered.

79. During the year 186 Europeans, including females, resided in the Colony and Protectorate—an increase of 29 over the previous year. Of this number, 57 were officials and 129 non-officials.

80. The general health of the Colony and Protectorate remained good, but the year was a particularly bad one for Europeans owing to several outbreaks of yellow fever which occurred; nine Europeans succumbed to this disease, of whom three were officials; and five other Europeans, all non-officials, died from other causes, making a total of 14 deaths, compared with two in 1910.

81. There were two small outbreaks of small-pox in the course of the year—in all 12 cases, none of which proved fatal.

82. There were 2,491 vaccinations performed in Bathurst in 1911 and 394 in the Protectorate, compared with 1,011 and 336 respectively in 1910.

83. Sanitary work was actively carried on in Bathurst during the year; the appointment of a European Town Warden at the beginning of the year and the revision of the Public Health Ordinance have enabled the campaign against the mosquito to be prosecuted far more effectively than hitherto. Sanitary matters in the Island of Saint Mary are controlled by a Board of Health, with the Senior Medical Officer as chairman; there is also a Senior Sanitary Officer shared by this Colony with Sierra Leone.

84. In the Protectorate there are special Sanitary Instructions for the guidance of the Travelling Commissioners and chiefs, and prizes are awarded for the cleanest village in each Province. It is, however, desirable that more expert attention should be given to the rising European settlements on the banks of the river.

85. During the dry season, from November to May, the climate of the Gambia is pleasant, particularly so in Bathurst, where there is commonly a breeze blowing. But during the wet season the conditions are much the same as elsewhere on the West Coast of Africa, and the damp and enervating weather is exceedingly oppressive. A meteorological station of the second class is maintained in Bathurst.

86. The highest shade temperature recorded in Bathurst was 105°, and the lowest 57°. The rainfall was the lowest for some years, being 28·14 inches, compared with 44·0 inches in 1910 and 56·99 inches in 1909.

87. The following are the meteorological returns for Bathurst and McCarthy Island respectively:—

Meteorological Return for the year 1911. *Bathurst.*

Month.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.
	°	°	°	°	°		
January	45	93	57	36	74·5	—	E.
February	47	100	59	41	76·6	—	N.
March	55	95	61	34	73·5	—	do.
April	56	105	63	42	75·9	—	do.
May	64	91	66	25	74·7	·71	do.
June	65	90	65	25	73·3	1·99	Variable.
July	64	93	68	25	79·2	3·78	do.
August	68	89	68	21	79·1	12·76	do.
September ...	64	91	70	21	80·3	7·63	do.
October	64	91	70	21	81·8	1·23	do.
November	56	94	64	30	80·1	—	E.
December	44	93	61	32	75·9	·04	E.
Total ...	692	1,125	772	353	924·9	28·14	—
Average ...	57·6	93·7	64·3	29·4	77·1		

Meteorological Return for the Year 1911. *McCarthy Island.*

Month.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.
	°	°	°	°	°		
January	Nil.	96	55	41	76·0	—	N.W.
February		103	55	48	80·7	—	do.
March		108	57	51	81·6	—	do.
April		112	60	52	86·9	—	do.
May		110	70	40	87·5	1·83	N.
June		106	68	38	86·5	3·61	Variable.
July		102	60	42	81·5	7·30	N.
August		96	68	28	81·1	8·47	do.
September ...		95	60	35	78·7	9·42	do.
October		98	62	36	82·2	1·23	Variable.
November ...		101	57	44	86·2	—	do.
December		101	51	50	76·6	·08	do.
Total ...	—	1,228	723	505	980·5	31·94	—
Average ...		102·3	60·2	42·1	81·7		

MAIL, POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

88. There is a fortnightly communication between Liverpool and Bathurst by the companies managed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company, but the time tables are only approximate and are not strictly adhered to.

89. An occasional Woermann Line steamer from Hamburg calls at Bathurst on the outward journey to Sierra Leone. There is frequent communication between Dakar and Europe, but this cannot be taken full advantage of as there is no corresponding communication between Bathurst and Dakar.

90. Internal communication is carried out by the launches of the five European trading firms, which accept passengers and freight. The charge for a passage from Bathurst to McCarthy Island—a distance of 153 miles—is £1 5*s*. first class and 12*s*. deck. Before her break-down, early in the year, the Government yacht was also available for passengers and freight when not required for Government service.

Post Office.

91. There are two post offices in the Colony; the head office in Bathurst and a branch office at McCarthy Island.

92. The total receipts during 1911 were £1,811, as compared with £1,624, £2,325, and £683 in 1910, 1909, and 1908, respectively; and the expenditure was £818, as compared with £864, £820, and £757 in 1910, 1909, and 1908, respectively.

93. The total number of letters dealt with during the year was 138,265, or 13,430 more than 1910; of these 11,543 were registered. 4,776 parcels, or 901 more than in 1910, were dealt with during the year. The " Cash on Delivery " service is in force.

94. The money and postal order business continues to increase, the value of transactions during 1911 being £1,760 greater than that of transactions in 1910. The direct exchange of money orders with French West African Colonies is being arranged.

Telegraph and Telephone.

95. The African Direct Telegraph Company has a station at Bathurst, the rate being 3*s*. 6*d*. per word to the United Kingdom, the Government having the privilege of sending cables at half rates. By a recent arrangement also the public is charged half-price for non-urgent cables.

96. There is no inland telegraph. Most Government Departments, some official quarters, and the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, are connected by telephone, as also is Government House at Cape St. Mary.

MILITARY FORCES.

97. The only regular troops in the Colony consist of the Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force.

98. The company forms a detached command of the West African Frontier Force, and is inspected by the Inspector-General at his periodical visits.

99. The Gambia Volunteer Artillery is mostly enrolled from the clerks in the Government offices.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Important Events.

100. The principal event of the year was the celebration of the Coronation, which was marked by a great display of loyalty and enthusiasm and will long be remembered in the Gambia. All the chiefs and their followers were brought down from the Protectorate and, together with the people of Bathurst, witnessed an impressive ceremony in McCarthy Square on the morning of Coronation Day, whilst in the evening there was a truly magnificent display of fireworks accompanied by a torch light tattoo, admirably executed by the West African Frontier Force.

Public Works.

101. The work of deepening the river at Kai-Hai was finished during the year, but inasmuch as several other shoal spots have been located, it is not yet possible for steamers to load with safety up to 15 feet at McCarthy Island. The work of buoying these shoal spots was actively undertaken at the end of the year, and in one case dredging operations have been commenced.

102. Towards the close of the year an important work was taken in hand, namely, the erection of a new bridge to connect Saint Mary's Island with the mainland, at a total estimated cost of £15,000. The bridge is to be sufficiently strong to carry a light railway and is expected to be finished by the end of 1913.

103. During the year the new hospital at McCarthy Island was completed, as also the new double bungalow in Bathurst, whilst the work of re-roofing the Customs warehouses was begun.

104. The local work on the survey of Bathurst was almost completed by the end of the year, though the benefits to be derived from it have not yet accrued, as the re-numbering of lots and re-alignment of streets still remain to be undertaken, before it will be possible to bring into force the Land Transfer Ordinance, 1904, and thus place the land question in Bathurst on a sound footing.

GENERAL.

105. The rates of wages in Bathurst are high and labour is scarce, being quite inadequate to meet demands. Moreover, as the ground-nut cultivation becomes more remunerative, labour in Bathurst tends to become more difficult to obtain every year.

106. Throughout the Protectorate the people are happy, and their wants are not great. Their increasing prosperity can be judged from the ever advancing revenue; that for 1911 was the

largest recorded in the history of the Colony, amounting to £86,454, as compared with £82,880 in 1910, which was the previous best. It is safe, too to assume that the revenue would have been appreciably larger had it not been for the several outbreaks of yellow fever which occurred in Bathurst and neighbouring ports.

107. In this respect the year was most unfortunate for Europeans. After ten years' immunity from the scourge, yellow fever broke out in Bathurst in May, and further cases occurred at intervals throughout the rains.

108. The epidemic was marked by untiring devotion on the part of the medical staff, and has been followed by increased energy in the anti-mosquito campaign and in sanitary matters generally.

109. In September of the year under review, the Colony sustained a great loss by the retirement on pension of Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., who had administered the Government of the Gambia for close on eleven years. During that period the revenue of the Colony rose from £43,726 in 1901 to all but double that amount in 1911; whilst the value of trade increased from £486,313 to £1,499,154. Not the least of the benefits derived during the administration of the late Governor was the establishment of law and order and peace and contentment throughout the Protectorate. Sir George Denton's departure from the Gambia was a matter of keen regret amongst all classes of the community, by whom he was held in the highest respect and esteem.

DONALD KINGDON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
8th May, 1912.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE GAMBIA BLUE-BOOK REPORT, 1911.

Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the Year 1910 *for the Colony of the Gambia.*

Reports on the following subjects were furnished to the Government of the Gambia from the Imperial Institute as the result of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department.

Agriculture in the Gambia.—The fourth report of Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, Inspector of Agriculture for the West African Colonies and Protectorates, on the Agricultural and Forest Products of the Gambia, with accompanying specimens, was forwarded to the Imperial Institute for consideration, and recommendations were made regarding subjects to which he had directed attention.

Ground-nuts.—A sample of Bantankilling ground-nuts was found to furnish a larger proportion of kernels than the ordinary Gambia variety and therefore gave a somewhat larger percentage of oil. The difference, however, was not sufficient to give the

Bantankilling variety any considerable preference over the ordinary kind from a commercial point of view, unless this variety gives a larger yield of nuts or offers any advantage in cultivation.

Maize.—Two samples of maize (white and yellow) were examined and valued. Both varieties would find a ready sale in the United Kingdom, but it is of the highest importance that exported maize should be in good condition and as free as possible from weevilled or damaged grains.

3rd July, 1911.

Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the Year 1911 *for the Colony of the Gambia.*

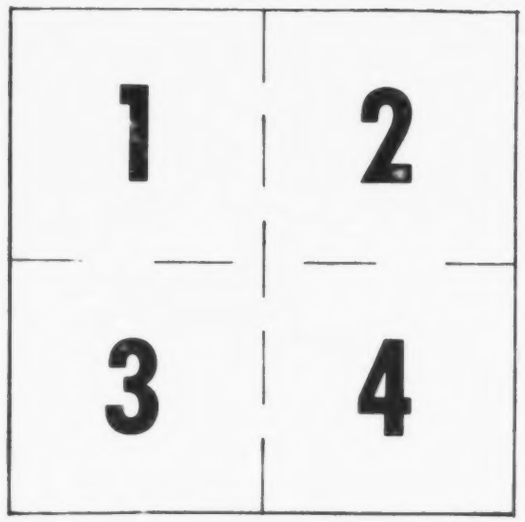
The following reports were furnished by the Imperial Institute to the Government of the Gambia during 1911 as the result of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department.

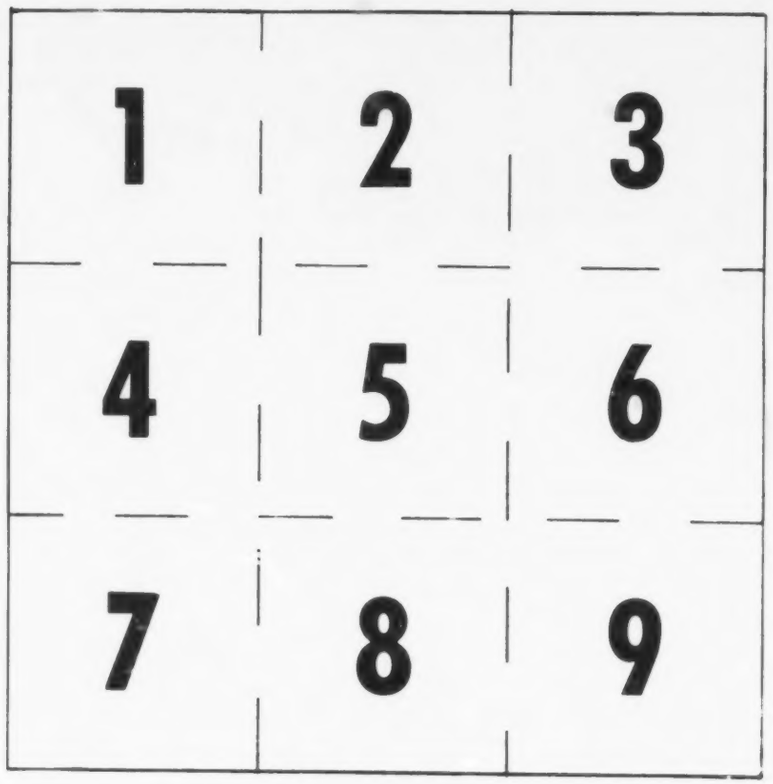
Iron Ore.—Eight specimens of iron ore obtained from different localities in the Colony were submitted for examination. The three richest specimens contained 53·70, 49·43, and 46·74 per cent. of ferric oxide, equivalent to 37·61, 34·62, and 32·74 per cent. of metallic iron respectively. Some of the ores might be suitable for local use, but they could not be profitably exported owing to the presence of large amounts of silica and other impurities.

Ground-nuts.—A sample of ground-nuts of the Fiji variety, grown at Kotu, consisted of large nuts of good appearance. The kernels yielded 48·2 per cent. of oil and were valued at £14 10*s.* to £15 10*s.* per ton in London (March, 1911).

2nd April, 1912.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.





GAMBIA

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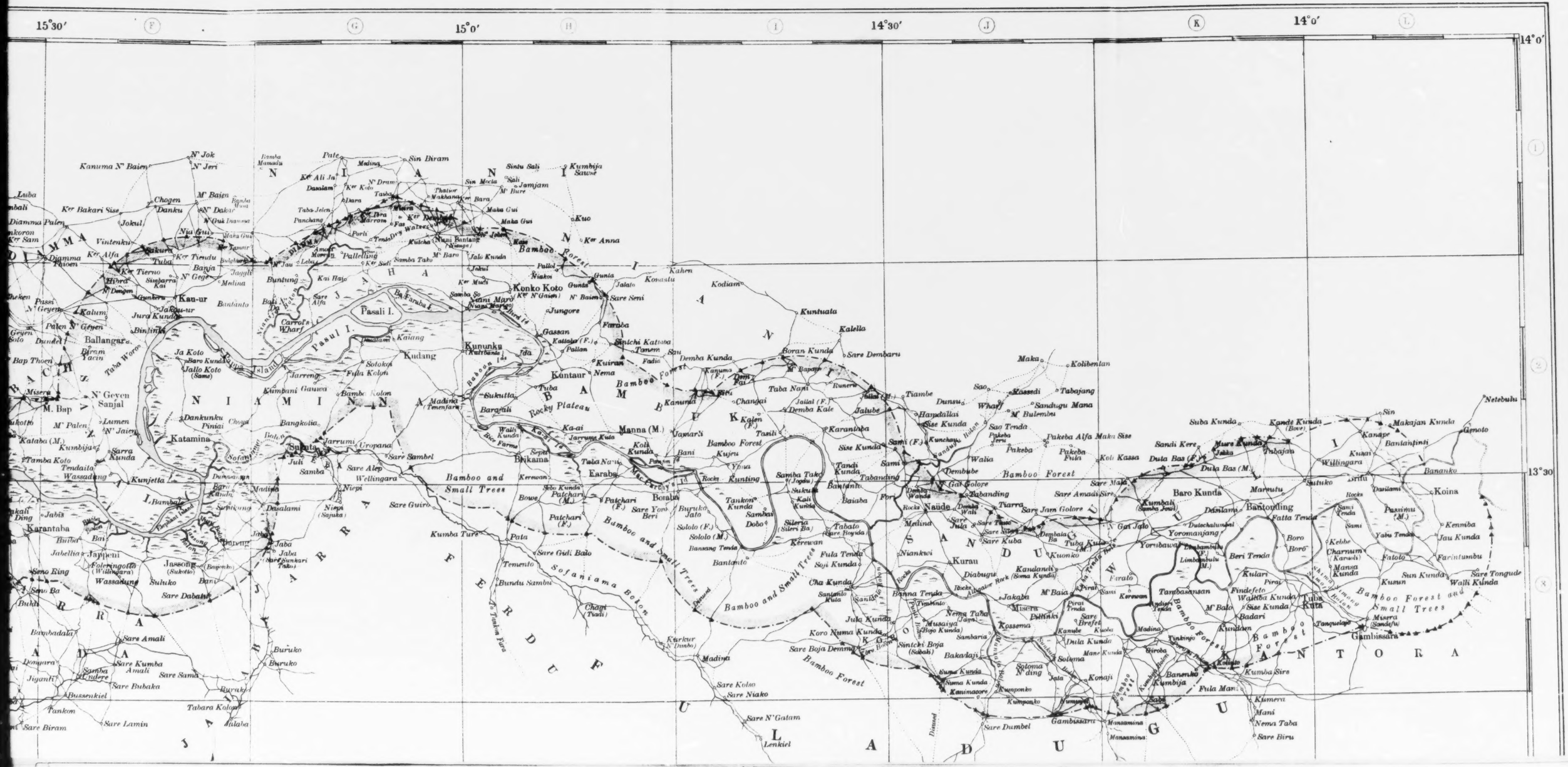
GAMBIA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Kanuma N' Baien
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Sakuru
Ker Alfa
Ker Tierno
Simbarra Kai
N' Gege
Banja
Tuba
Ker Tierdu
Kau-ur
Jakau-ur
Jura Kunda
Binlinka
Ballangar
N' Geyen
Sanjal
M. Bap
Katamina
Dankunku
Pinia
Bangkolia
Sukuta
Jarrumi
Uropana
Sare Sambel
Sare Alep
Wellingara
Nadiro
Nieni
Dasalami
Karantaba
Jabi
Jappeni
Jasong (Sukoto)
Suluko
Sare Dabatu
Sare Amali
Sare Kumba Amali
Sare Bubaka
Sare Sama
Sare Biram
Sare Lamin
Tabara Kolon
Sare Guiro
Kumba Ture
Bamboo and Small Trees
Sofaniama Bolon
Chagi (Tvali)
Bundu Sambi
Temento
Pata
Sare Gidi Balo
Patchari (M.)
Patchari (F.)
Sare Yoro Beri
Bonata
Buruko Jato
Sololo (F.)
Sololo (M.)
Bansang Tenda
Bantanto
Tankon Kunda
Sambas
Dobo
Silera (Silera Ba)
Kerewan
Fula Tenda
Soji Kunda
Cha Kunda
Santanto Kula
Jula Kunda
Koro Numa Kunda
Sare Boja Demma
Madina
Sare Kolao
Sare Niako
Sare N'Gatam
Lenkiel
Kurkur (N' Dimbo)
Tankon Fara
Buruko
Tabara Kolon
Mulaba
Jarra Ferdu
Pasali I.
Carrol's Wharf
Kaiang
Kudang
Kununku (Kutrenda)
Ida
Sotoko
Fula Kolon
Jarreng
Kumbani Gauwa
Bamba Kolon
Ja Koto
Baro Kunda
Jallo Koto (Same)
Kuntaur
Nema
Madina (Tenenfara)
Baraffali
Rocky Plateau
Bamboo Forest
Kamuma
Kalen (F.)
Kunchang
Jasnar's
Manna (M.)
Ka-ai
Jarrung Kuta
Kota Kunda
Bani
Kujiu
Ybna
Tasili
Bamboo Forest
Samba Tako
Sukuta
Kali Kunda
Rocks
Kunting
Tabanding
Bantanto
Baisba
Fort
Tasiti
Karantaba
Sise Kunda
Sami (F.)
Kunchang
Sami
Walia
Dembube
Gat Golore
Bamboo Forest
Sare Mala
Sare Amadi Sire
Sare Jam Golore
Tiarra
Naude
Dumbo Wande
Dumbo Wali
Madina
Sare Jula
Sare Tenda
Sare Kuba
Tuba Kuta (M.)
Kuonko
Niankui
Kurau
Diabugu
Kandanuli (Sima Kunda)
Jakaba
M' Baia
Misera Pathiko
Sare Direfet
Kanube
Kossema
Dula Kunda
Mane Kunda
Soloma N'ding
Jata
Konaji
Kumponko
Gambissara
Mansamina
Sare Dumbel
Bamboo Forest
Bamboo and Small Trees
Pallel
Niakos
Konko Koto
Ker N'Gasen
Gunta
Talato
Sare Seni
N' Baien
Jungore
Faraba
Gasan
Kuntuata
Kalella
Kodiam
Kahen
Konsatu
Bambaa Forest
Ker Anna
Kuo
Maka Gui
Jokul
Ker Muda
Jalo Kunda
Pallelling
Amdi Morena
Lebo
Buntung
Kai Hajo
Sare Alfa
Ba Faraba
Carrol's Wharf
Kunting
Kuntaur
Nema
Sare Embaru
Boran Kunda
Tiambe
Changai
Jallal (F.)
Demba Kale
Jatube
Hapdallai
Sise Kunda
Karantaba
Sao Tenda
Pakeba Jeru
Pakeba Fula
Pakeba Alfa Maka Sise
Koli Kassa
Duta Bas (F.)
Duta Bas (M.)
Sandi Kere
Mare Kunda
Jakka
Tabajan
Kassedi
Sandugu Mana
M' Bulembu
Maka
Kolibentan
Sao
Wharf
Dunsu
Netebulu
Suba Kunda
Kande Kunda (Bowe)
Makajan Kunda
Kanapa
Bantantinti
Genoto
Sin
Kusai
Willingara
Bananko
Sutuko
Sritu
Rocks
Daulami
Koina
Pasimu (M.)
Kemiba
Jau Kunda
Farintumbu
Sun Kunda
Sare Tongude
Walli Kunda
Baro Kunda
Kumbali (Samba Jouli)
Marutu
Bantonding
Fatta Tenda
Yoromanjang
Dutechalumbai
Yorubawa
Limbambulu (F.)
Limbambulu (M.)
Beri Tenda
Boro
Kebbe
Charnum (Karuali)
Fatoto
Mansa Kunda
Kulari
Pirai
Findefeto
Walliba Kunda
Tuba Kuta
Tanbassansan
Sise Kunda
Badari
Kundam
Bamboo Forest and Small Trees
Tonquelay
Gambissara
Kelitto
Kumba Sire
Fula Man
Kumera
Mani
Nema Taba
Sare Biru
Bamboo Forest
Kanimasare
Sare Kolao
Sare Niako
Sare N'Gatam
Lenkiel
Sare Dumbel
Gambissara
Mansamina
Kaiang
Kunting
Kuntaur
Nema
Kudang
Pasali I.
Carrol's Wharf
Jaxaar
Bamboo Forest
Rocky Plateau
Bamboo and Small Trees
Sofaniama Bolon
Jarra Ferdu
Pasali I.
Kununku
Kudang
Kuntaur
Nema
Bamboo Forest
Rocky Plateau
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Kuntaur
Nema
Bamboo Forest
Rocky Plateau
Bamboo and Small Trees
Sofaniama Bolon
Jarra Ferdu

Geographical Section, General Staff. No. 2447.

Reference

Boundary Pillars shown thus ▲
International Boundary
Kunda ... Mandinga for Town
Kᵒ ... Yolof " "
Sare ... Fula " "
Tenda ... Wharf
Bolon ... Creek, River, or Marsh
M = Mandinga Y = Yolof F = Fula

Scale 1/500,000 or Four Inches to 8 Miles

Miles 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30

Kilometres 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45

Scale $\frac{1}{500,000}$ or Four Inches to 8 Miles

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 Miles

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 Kilometres

Printed at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton in 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
690	Somaliland	1910
691	Hong Kong	"
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	"
695	Southern Nigeria	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements...	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands	"
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906-7 and 1907-8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 767.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 718.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1913.

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No. 767.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 718)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
16th July, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1912, together with a report thereon.

2. I regret the delay which has occurred in sending these documents forward. Mr. Campbell, however, only arrived in the Colony late in January, and for the first three months after arrival he acted as Deputy Governor whilst I was on tour in the Protectorate, during which period pressure of work prevented him from making a start in compiling his Report. Further, unavoidable delay occurred in completing the Blue Book returns owing to the Secretariat native staff being two men short for several months.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALWAY,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street,
London.

(31442—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 9/13. D & S A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue for the year amounted to £96,221 13*s.* 11*d.*, as compared with £86,454 0*s.* 9*d.* in 1911 and £82,880 7*s.* 4*d.* in 1910, the two previous record years.

2. The estimated revenue for the year was £71,261, or £24,960 less than was actually received.

3. The amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1911 and 1912, with the several increases or decreases, were:—

Heads of Revenue.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	68,319	72,852	4,533	—
Port Dues	1,102	1,311	209	—
Licences, Excise, &c.	1,832	2,064	232	—
Fees of Court	1,790	1,746	—	44
Post Office	1,812	4,624	2,812	—
Rent of Government Property	364	400	36	—
Government Vessels	123	1	—	122
Interest	2,310	3,167	857	—
Protectorate	7,616	8,910	1,294	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	704	634	—	70
Land Sales...	482	512	30	—
Total	86,454	96,221	10,003	236

4. The principal increases were in (1) Customs, (2) Post Office, (3) Interest, and (4) Protectorate, and are accounted for by (1) the gathering of a record crop of ground-nuts, the export duty on which amounted to £21,390, representing a total export value of over £500,000. The distribution of this sum increased the spending power of the natives, and resulted in a greater demand for imported articles, (2) a new issue of postage stamps (Georgian), (3) additional investments, and (4) to additional revenue from hut-taxes and trading licences being collected in the Protectorate, due to immigration and the extension of trade.

5. The decreases were of no importance. The greatest loss, amounting to only £122, under the head of "Government Vessels" was owing to the sale of the "Mansa Kila" and the consequent loss of receipts for the carriage of passengers and freight.

6. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure for the year was £81,340, or £9,950 more than that for 1911. The estimated expenditure was £99,851, or £18,511 more than was actually expended.

7. The following return, giving revenue and expenditure 1908-12—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908	57,898	61,097
1909	72,675	56,237
1910	82,880	63,301
1911	86,454	71,390
1912	96,221	81,340

shows a regular annual increase in revenue during the last five years, and that the revenue in 1912 nearly doubled that for 1908.

8. There was no important change in taxation during the year.

9. On the 31st December, 1911, assets exceeded liabilities by £92,893 17*s*. 2*d*. Twelve months later the excess amounted to £107,731 10*s*., an increase of £14,837 12*s*. 10*d*.

10. Investments in Government securities amounted on the 31st December, 1912, to £94,775 10*s*. 9*d*., the cost price of which was £90,375. There was also a sum of £13,000 on deposit with the London County and Westminster Bank. The Colony remains in its former position of freedom from a public debt.

11. English coinage is current in the Colony. Silver coins, from the florin downwards, are generally used. Silver is legal tender to any amount. There are a number of French five-franc pieces in circulation. Their exchange value is 3*s*. 10½*d*. The Bank of British West Africa is the only one in the Colony. The average rate of exchange during 1912 for bills drawn on London was 1 per cent.

12. The only Municipal Board in the Colony is the Board of Health, which is composed of official and non-official members, and is presided over by the Senior Medical Officer.

13. The revenue of the Board of Health is derived from a three-per cent. rate levied on the value of lots, annually assessed in the town of Bathurst, from slaughter-house fees and from a Government grant-in-aid. The receipts in 1911 were—local rates, £695 15*s*.; market and slaughter-house fees, £89 11*s*. 6*d*.; grant-in-aid, £1,819; miscellaneous, £263 10*s*. 1*d*.; total, £2,867 16*s*. 7*d*., as compared with £2,237 in 1911.

14. The expenditure, which includes personal emoluments, scavenging, lighting, upkeep of horses and carts, &c., amounted to £2,588 13*s*. 3*d*., as against £2,237 in 1911.

15. The revenue and expenditure of the Board of Health during the last five years is shown on the following statement:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908	1,147	1,073
1909	1,047	1,181
1910	1,286	1,443
1911	2,237	2,199
1912	2,867	2,588

16. MacCarthy Square, situated in the centre of the town and used as a parade ground by the West African Frontier Force, and as a general recreation ground, is under a Board similarly constituted as the Board of Health. The upkeep of the Square is provided for by a grant—£118 in 1912—from the Government.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

17. *Trade.*—The trade of the Colony flourished during 1912, which was a record year. For the first time in the history of the Gambia the total value of commerce—excluding specie—amounted to over a million pounds.

18. *Imports.*—The total value of all imports was £756,853, against £807,118 in 1911.

Specie.—Bullion and specie were imported during 1912 to the value of £285,223, as against £384,784 in 1911.

19. The following table shows the chief articles imported and the value thereof during 1911 and 1912:—

Articles.	1911.	1912.
	£	£
Cotton goods	130,324	124,345
Hardware	12,204	23,021
Kola-nuts	72,598	86,111
Rice	62,459	85,763
Spirits	8,513	10,959
Sugar	12,611	5,785
Salt	1,553	2,589
Tobacco	8,250	9,011
Wine	3,267	2,685

20. *Increases.*—The increases were in—(1) Hardware, £10,817. The increased importations came from Great Britain, France, and other countries, to the value of £6,453, £4,342, and £165, respectively. (2) Kola-nuts, £13,513. This increase was in value only. The actual importation, from Sierra Leone, amounted to 81,747 lbs. less than that of 1911. (3) Rice, £23,304; Great Britain, France, and Germany supplied 121, 7,252, 10,673 cwt., respectively, more than in 1911, while importations from other countries decreased by 5,150 cwt. (4) Spirits, £2,446. There was an increase of 72 gallons only from Great Britain. The importations from France showed an increase of 444 gallons, while those from Holland increased by 49,997 gallons. (5) Salt, £1,036. This commodity was almost wholly imported from the Cape Verde Islands. (6) Tobacco, £761. Importations from Great Britain, France, and Germany were less than in 1911. The supply from the United States of America increased by 97,796 lbs.

21. *Decreases.*—These were in:—

	£
Cotton goods	5,979
Sugar	6,826
Wines	582

22. Excluding specie, the percentages of imports from the various countries in 1911 and 1912 were as follows:—

	1911.		1912.	
Great Britain	44·4		42	
British Possessions	17·6		18	
	——	62	—	60
France and French Possessions		20·4		22
Germany		13·4		13
Other countries		4·2		5

23. The growth of the import trade during the last five years is shown in the following table:—

——	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Specie	145,290	146,620	208,544	384,784	285,223
Other articles ...	245,450	257,940	370,439	422,334	471,630
Total	390,740	404,560	578,983	807,118	756,853

24. *Exports.*—The total value of all exports was £735,172, as compared with £682,036 in 1911.

Specie.—Bullion and specie to the value of £196,579 was exported. This was exceeded in 1911 by £18,994.

25. The following return shows the principal articles of export and their values in 1911 and 1912:—

Article.		Quantity.		Value.	
		1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.
				£	£
Calabashes	Packages	587	2,572	771	3,340
Ground-nuts... ...	Tons	47,931	64,169	437,472	502,069
Hides...	No.	28,754	49,107	7,607	15,117
Ivory...	Lbs.	1,024	1,236	215	172
Palm-kernels ...	Tons	444	445	4,758	6,518
Rubber	Lbs.	10,733	4,335	836	409
Wax	„	33,871	30,830	1,514	1,164

26. *Increases.*—These are shown in—(1) calabashes, £2,569, which appear for the first time as one of the principal exports. Their exportation was almost wholly to the British Colony of Sierra Leone. (2) Ground-nuts, £64,597. A record crop was produced during the year; 5,713 tons more were exported than in 1910, the previous record year. France imported 80 per cent. and Holland and Great Britain 9 and 4 per cent. respectively.

The only other increase was in hides. The export trade in palm-kernels has been almost stationary during the last three years, while that in rubber and wax has declined, and is not likely to increase in face of the success met with in growing ground-nuts.

27. The following comparative statement shows the development in the ground-nut and palm-kernel trade during the last five years:—

Return showing Quantity, &c., of Ground-nuts and Palm-kernels exported during the years 1908 *to* 1912.

Articles.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Ground-nuts	31,964	53,644	58,456	47,931	64,169
	£	£	£	£	£
„	245,084	323,231	387,943	437,472	502,069
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Palm-kernels	390	389	467	444	445
	£	£	£	£	£
„	3,488	3,526	5,640	4,758	6,518

28. The percentages of exports, excluding specie, in 1911 and 1912 were:—

	1911.	1912.
Great Britain and British Possessions	6·3	9
France and French Possessions ...	84·8	76
Holland	3·2	9
Other countries	5·7	6

29. *Agriculture.*—The principal occupation of the Gambia native is the cultivation of the ground-nut, which is still the only article actually cultivated for export. The other exports, rubber and palm-kernels, are collected casually. Their culture is not likely to receive attention while there is any demand for the comparatively easily grown and garnered ground-nut, which is so suited to the climate and to the local agriculturalist, who is not a strenuous labourer.

30. The policy of the Government in arranging for the issue of seed-nuts to the people under favourable conditions as regards payment has been continued. By this means much has been done towards fostering the cultivation of the ground-nut and adding to the wealth and contentment of the people.

31. Rice and the African koos, or millet, are grown by native farmers, but the quantities raised are not sufficient for local requirements, as is shown by the quantity of rice imported.

32. Land is granted by the Government in small areas; generally these are used for trading stations at a minimum rental of £3. The value of land in Bathurst is increasing.

33. The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 556, with an aggregate tonnage of 583,458, an increase of 107 vessels and 102,647 tons above the figures for 1911.

34. The tonnage of British and foreign vessels (*a*) entered, and (*b*) cleared, and (*c*) the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared, in the years 1911 and 1912, is shown in the following returns:—

(a) *Tonnage of Vessels Entered.*

Nationality.	1911. Steamers.	1911. Sailing Vessels.	1911. Total.	1912. Steamers.	1912. Sailing Vessels.	1912. Total.
British ...	142,444	294	142,738	180,272	379	180,651
Foreign ...	92,914	2,769	95,683	106,190	3,387	109,577
Total ...	235,358	3,063	238,421	286,462	3,766	290,228

(b) *Tonnage of Vessels Cleared.*

British ...	144,648	294	144,942	180,835	397	181,232
Foreign ...	94,824	2,724	97,548	107,944	4,054	111,988
Total ...	239,472	3,018	242,490	288,779	4,451	293,230

(c) *Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.*

British ...	287,092	588	287,680	361,107	776	361,883
Foreign ...	187,738	5,493	193,231	214,134	7,441	221,575
Total ...	474,830	6,081	480,911	575,241	8,217	583,458

Of the total number of vessels entered and cleared 229 were British (44 sailing and 185 steam) and 327 foreign (97 sailing and 230 steam). The aggregate tonnage of British steamers exceeded that of foreign steamers by 146,973 tons.

35. The following comparative table shows the classification, tonnage, and nationality of all vessels entered and cleared during the last two years:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1911. Steamers.	1911. Sailing Vessels.	1911. Total.	1912. Steamers.	1912. Sailing Vessels.	1912. Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	287,092	588	287,680	361,107	776	361,883
French	79,740	958	80,698	80,536	1,230	81,766
German	39,519	—	39,519	52,940	2	52,942
Russian	13,124	—	13,124	2,296	—	2,296
American ...	1,146	507	1,653	—	609	609
Norwegian ...	15,969	—	15,969	14,141	—	14,141
Portuguese ...	—	3,205	3,205	—	4,158	4,158
Danish	9,508	648	10,156	14,124	1,232	15,356
Swedish	7,194	—	7,194	13,526	—	13,526
Greek	7,536	—	7,536	31,244	—	31,244
Dutch	—	—	—	2,937	—	2,937
Spanish	2,446	175	2,621	—	210	210
Italian	5,784	—	5,784	—	—	—
Belgian	5,772	—	5,772	2,390	—	2,390
Total ...	474,830	6,081	480,911	575,241	8,217	583,458

36. The following is a return showing total quantity and value of, and revenue collected on, spirits of all kinds during the years 1911 and 1912:—

Kind.	1911.				1912.			
	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.	Quantity.	Declared Value.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue Collected.
	Galls.	£		£	Galls.	£		£
Alcohol	23	3	4s. 2d. per gallon.	8	—	—	4s. 2d. per gallon.	—
Brandy	326	280		69	324	249		68
Gin (Unsweetened)	42,091	4,307		6,214	52,238	6,169		7,625
Rum	11,478	1,221		2,364	8,963	1,303		1,961
Spirit (Sweetened)	6,868	1,688		1,445	8,097	2,023		1,700
Whisky	1,991	1,009		418	2,539	1,216		533
Total ...	62,777	8,508	—	10,518	72,161	10,960	—	11,887

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. Fourteen Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these the most important were:—

No. 4.—"An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Public Health in the Island of Saint Mary." This measure was not passed until the latter end of the year. The increased powers given will, it is hoped, simplify the action to be taken in the enforcement of sanitation and make the value thereof more apparent.

No. 5.—"An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the town of Bathurst."

38. These enactments have transferred, to use the words of the Senior Sanitary Officer, "large and important sanitary subjects from the region of debate to the realm of action."

IV.—EDUCATION.

Schools.

39. No schools are maintained by the Government. Education in the Colony, with the exception of the Mohammedan School, is carried on entirely by the three Missionary Societies—Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic. The schools of each of these denominations are under European superintendents, towards whose salaries the Government contributes £150 per annum in each case. A grant is also made towards the salaries of teachers in the Mohammedan School and the provision of prizes therein. Further grants-in-aid, provided under the Education Ordinance, are based on the average attendance of pupils and the results of examinations held by the Government Inspector of Schools.

40. In Bathurst the Anglican body has an affiliated elementary school, with 131 boys and girls on the register during 1912. There are also two Roman Catholic affiliated elementary schools in Bathurst, one for boys, with 302 on the register, and one for girls, with 140 on the register, in 1912. The Wesleyan Church has two similar schools, which had a total of 666 pupils on the register during the year. This denomination has another school in MacCarthy Island, which had 85 pupils on the register.

41. The Wesleyan Church also supplies the only secondary and technical education in the Colony. It has a non-affiliated secondary school for boys in Bathurst, and a technical and industrial school in Bathurst. An annual grant of £300 is given by the Government towards the maintenance of this school, which is examined once a year by a Government nominee.

42. The Mohammedan School, attended by 108 children during the year, is managed by a Board of leading Mohammedans, with the Governor as Chairman. The pupils in this school are taught elementary subjects in English and Arabic, and the study of the Koran. The total number of children presented for examination was 31, of whom nine only obtained passes, as against 37 and 27 in 1911, due to changes in the teaching staff and difficulty in obtaining teachers.

43. The total number of children attending the schools in 1912 was 1,519, as compared with 1,461 in 1911.

44. Out of a total of 306 children, including those from the Mohammedan School, presented for examination only 173 obtained passes.

45. The Government provided £10 for prizes to teachers obtaining hygiene certificates. The results of the examination were not satisfactory, since only two prizes of ten shillings each were awarded. The subject of elementary hygiene and sanitation is now compulsory in Standards VI and VII. of the schools.

46. Voluntary education is carried on under great difficulty, owing to the irregular attendance of pupils at the various schools. The average attendance of pupils during 1912 was only about half of those on the registers.

47. The income and expenditure of the elementary schools for 1912 are shown in the following tables:—

Income, 1912.

School.	School Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hagan Street	21 12 11½	122 13 10½	*304 6 5	448 13 3
St. Joseph's Convent...	13 5 5	121 8 1	89 9 5	224 2 11
St. Mary's	16 14 0	156 16 8	*238 15 2	412 5 10
Dobson Street ...	73 9 9	21 15 7	†309 19 10	405 5 2
Stanley Street ...	39 7 11½	71 8 9	113 15 3	224 11 11½
MacCarthy Island ...	5 5 7	81 6 1	44 13 0	131 4 8
Grant Total ...	169 15 8	575 9 0½	1,100 19 1	1,846 3 9½

* Including grant of £150 to European superintendent.
† Including grant of £115 18*s.* 8*d.* to European superintendent.

Expenditure, 1912.

School.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School Materials.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hagan Street	—	0 16 8	17 15 7	430 1 0	—	448 13 3
St. Joseph's Convent.	—	1 17 6	6 5 5	216 0 0	—	224 2 11
St. Mary's ...	—	8 16 0	29 4 3	347 5 7	27 0 0	412 5 10
Dobson Street	24 4 5	1 11 6	27 14 4	347 14 11	4 0 0	495 5 2
Stanley Street	—	0 6 6	22 0 9½	197 4 8	5 0 0	224 11 11½
MacCarthy Island.	58 16 0	—	2 11 1	68 18 6	0 19 1	131 4 8
Total ...	83 0 5	13 8 2	105 11 5½	1,607 4 8	36 19 1	1,846 3 9½

Industrial and Technical.

48. The technical and industrial school had a fairly successful year. The number of boys on the books was 22, of whom six were in the last year of their apprenticeship. The average annual value, for the last ten years, of the work done by the school was £373 6*s.* 9*d.* The value of the work done in 1912 was £375 18*s.* 10*d.*, which, although slightly above the average, was considerably below that of 1911, the record year, when the value reached £675 13*s.* 3*d.* The work performed comprised buildings, carts, and general blacksmith's work. The school is well patronised, orders for work being received from all denominations. Although the school is a Wesleyan institution, its pupils include five Anglicans, one Roman Catholic, and one Mohammedan.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

49. There are two hospitals, one at Bathurst and one at MacCarthy Island. The former has accommodation for four first-class, 11 second-class, and 10 third-class male patients, and 15 female patients, including two cots for children. There are also four rooms for isolation cases. The wards for males and females are in separate buildings.

50. The hospital, opened in 1911, at MacCarthy Island is in charge of a European Medical Officer. It contains a ward for Europeans and three wards, two for males and one for female native patients; 66 in-patients and 1,356 out-patients were treated during the year.

51. There is also a contagious diseases hospital, situated about two miles from Bathurst. Four mild cases of small-pox, all of which recovered, were treated in this building during the year.

52. The medical establishment consists of a Senior Medical Officer and four other Medical Officers, all of whom are members

of the West African Medical Staff. The Senior and two other Medical Officers are resident in Bathurst, one is stationed at MacCarthy Island, and one is a travelling Medical Officer in the Protectorate.

53. Four European Roman Catholic Nursing Sisters were attached to the hospital. The engagement of these ladies terminated at the end of the year owing to the advisability of providing trained nurses for service in the hospital. The Sisters from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, in Paris, performed their work with marked devotion, and left behind them a record of piety and gentle unselfishness. A native staff of dispensers, dressers, and nurses complete the hospital staff.

54. The total number of in-patients treated in the Bathurst Hospital during the year was 529, compared with 588 in 1911. Thirty-three patients died in hospital.

55. The number of cases treated in the out-patients' department was 7,895, compared with 7,255 in 1911.

56. Of the 33 deaths four were from broncho-pneumonia, three from bronchitis, while chronic malaria, debility, pneumonia, congestion of the lungs, abscess, general injuries, and valvular mitral were each responsible for two deaths.

Asylum.

57. The Home for the Afflicted and Destitute contained eight inmates at the end of 1911; 13 more were admitted during the year. Of this total of 21, 11 died during the year, two were removed to the Kissy Asylum at Sierra Leone, one was discharged, and seven remained on the 31st December, 1912.

Government Savings Bank.

58. This institution continued to make satisfactory progress under the control of the Receiver-General. At the close of the year there were 501 accounts, as compared with 470 in 1911, 456 in 1910, and 428 in 1909. The amount remaining on deposit was £5,267 11*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with £5,037 6*s.* 7*d.*, £5,261 15*s.* 10*d.*, and £4,411 5*s.* 4*d.* in 1911, 1910, and 1909, respectively. The amount deposited during the year was £3,517 4*s.* 4*d.*, and £3,408 11*s.* 4*d.* was withdrawn. The interest payable was £110 11*s.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

59. The Police Force consists of one European Superintendent of Police, one European Assistant Superintendent, and 80 non-commissioned officers and men. These were all stationed at Bathurst with the exception of one non-commissioned officer and six men, who were at out-stations in the Colony and Protectorate. During the year the composition of the Force was altered to include the ranks of corporal and lance-corporal, with a view to improving the organisation and discipline.

60. A Merryweather manual fire-engine, in the use of which selected men are instructed, is attached to the Force. There were seven calls to attend fires during the year. One fire, successfully dealt with, was serious, and being in the business quarter of the town was for a time endangered. Provision has been made for a new fire-engine, which will add to the value of the Fire Brigade and reduce the risks due to the inadequacy of the present fire-fighting appliances.

61. In addition to ordinary police duties, the Force is called upon to attend to stray animals, the issuing of licences for dogs, hawkers, boats, canoes, guns and powder, and the inspection of weights and measures, besides having to provide messengers, mail carriers, and escorts in the Colony and Protectorate. With all these calls upon it the Force is not numerically strong enough to allow for the proper policing of Bathurst.

62. A record of known and suspected criminals was instituted during the year. This should ultimately prove of great assistance to the Police in the investigation and detection of crime. It is hoped that the finger-print system of identification will be adopted shortly.

Prisons.

63. The only prison in the Colony is established in Bathurst in an old building which is hardly suitable for modern requirements.

64. On the 1st January, 1912, there were 27 convicted prisoners remaining from 1911 in gaol. During the year 104 were admitted. Of these 84 were discharged on the expiration of their sentences, 17 were discharged before the expiration of their sentences, three had their sentences remitted, one died in gaol, and 26 remained in the prison on the 31st December, 1912.

65. The health of the prisoners continues to be satisfactory. The only death in 1912 was due to heart failure in the case of a prisoner whose sentence of death for murder was commuted in 1910 to 20 years' imprisonment.

66. The daily average number of prisoners during the last five years was as follows:—

1908	23·89
1909	20·68
1910	23·78
1911	26·24
1912	27·50

Criminal Statistics.

67. In the Supreme Court there were 22 cases tried, a decrease of three as compared with the year 1911. These included two charges of murder, of which one prisoner was acquitted and the other resulted in a conviction of manslaughter. These charges arose in the Protectorate, as did also another, in which the charge was "attempt to murder," which also resulted in an acquittal. Two other charges of cattle stealing completed the cases committed from the Protectorate for trial.

68. The number of cases disposed of by the Police Court was 271, an excess of 46 as compared with the previous year. The increase includes 26 summonses taken out by the Board of Health under the sections of the new Public Health Ordinance, 1912, aiming at the destruction of mosquitoes. The figures given must not be taken as an indication of an increase in crime, but rather as showing more activity on the part of the Police.

69. During the year 466 cases were reported from the Protectorate, an increase of 99 as compared with 1911. The majority of these cases were breaches of special regulations under the Protectorate Ordinances, and were not of a serious nature. The increase may be accounted for by more attention being paid by the native officials in the Provinces to the observance of these Ordinances.

70. It is again most satisfactory to record the continued absence of serious crime both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

71. The last census of the Colony and Protectorate was taken in 1911, and gave the population of the former as 7,700 and of the latter as 138,401, a total number of 146,101 inhabitants. The Protectorate population was increased by the migration of a number, reported to have been 3,367 during the year, of strange farmers from neighbouring territories. This addition gives a total population of 149,468 (approximate).

72. The numbers of births and deaths registered in each of those parts of the Colony to which the system of registration applies, together with the total number therein for the year, are shown in the following tables:—

Births, 1912.

District.	Males.			Females.			Totals.
	White.	Black.	Mulatto	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	
Bathurst... ...	—	130	3	—	125	3	261
British Kombo ...	—	6	—	—	6	—	12
Ceded Mile ...	—	5	—	—	2	—	7
MacCarthy Island	—	10	—	—	13	—	23
Total ...	—	151	3	—	146	3	303

Deaths, 1912.

District.	Males.				Females.				Totals.
	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	Asiatic.	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	Asiatic.	
Bathurst	3	138	2	1	—	112	5	1	262
British Kombo ...	—	19	—	—	—	10	—	—	29
Ceded Mile ...	—	7	—	—	—	5	—	—	12
MacCarthy Island ...	—	17	—	—	—	16	—	—	33
Total	3	181	2	1	—	143	5	1	336

73. The causes of the deaths of the three Europeans who died during 1912 were syncope, appendicular abscess, and general peritonitis.

74. The following is a comparative return showing the births and deaths registered in Bathurst, British Kombo, the Ceded Mile, and MacCarthy Island during the years 1908-1912:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1908	351	387	36	—
1909	339	330	—	9
1910	363	385	22	—
1911	306	318	12	—
1912	303	336	33	—

75. There were 20 marriages solemnized in Bathurst during the year, as against 17 in 1911. The number of Government marriage licences taken out was three, being five less than in the previous year.

76. The number of Europeans, including females, residing in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was 198. Of these 56 were officials and 142 non-officials. Seventeen Europeans, including five officials, were invalided during the year. Three Europeans died, but no death occurred amongst the European officials.

Public Health.

77. The year was fortunately free from yellow fever, of which there was an outbreak in 1911. The general health of the Colony and Protectorate was satisfactory.

78. There were 1,914 vaccinations performed in Bathurst in 1912 and 867 in the Protectorate, compared with 2,608 and 394, respectively, in 1911. Arrangements have been made for a Medical Officer to travel through the Protectorate and carry out vaccinations. It is hoped that this will give more satisfactory results.

79. The Board of Health attends to the sanitation of Bathurst. The Senior Medical Officer is Chairman of the Board and the Colonial Engineer and Inspector of Police are ex-officio members. Six other members are appointed annually by the Governor. There is a Senior Sanitary Officer, whose services are shared by the Colony and Sierra Leone. Two new appointments were made under the Board, namely, a Medical Officer of Health and an Assistant Town Warden.

80. The native sanitary staff was increased by three. The campaign against mosquitoes has been vigorously carried out and has resulted in greatly diminishing their number. After the last case of yellow fever in November, 1911, the fumigation of all Government quarters, cellars, and many private buildings was undertaken.

81. The stegomyia species of mosquito has almost disappeared. Among the mosquitoes found in different parts of the town at the end of the year only two were stegomyia, the remainder were mainly culex. The clearing of about 40 acres of mangrove on the western side of the town has greatly diminished the number of mosquitoes in that quarter.

82. In addition to the officials already mentioned the sanitary staff includes an Inspector and five Assistant Inspectors of Nuisances, 40 labourers, increased to 70 in the rainy season; five cartmen, one groom, and four lamp-lighters.

83. In the Protectorate, where prizes are given to the cleanest village in each Province, the Travelling Commissioners are guided by special Sanitary Instructions.

CLIMATE.

84. The climate of the Gambia is pleasant during the dry season, which lasts from November to May. For the remaining months, the wet season, the conditions are similar to those experienced elsewhere on the West Coast of Africa. The damp and enervating weather is very oppressive and more generally felt, after the several rainless months, than is the case elsewhere.

85. A meteorological station of the second class is maintained in Bathurst. The highest shade temperature recorded in Bathurst was 104° and the lowest 58°. The rainfall was 33·99 inches, compared with 28·14 inches in 1911, the lowest for some years.

86. The following are the meteorological returns for Bathurst and MacCarthy Island respectively:—

Meteorological Return for the year 1912. *Bathurst.*

Month.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.
January	48	94	60	34	77·0	—	E.
February	50	101	60	41	80·5	—	N.
March	45	104	63	41	83·5	—	—
April	45	98	59	39	78·5	—	—
May	50	94	65	29	79·5	—	—
June	46	95	67	28	81·0	1·72	Variable.
July	50	92	72	20	82·0	5·95	—
August	52	89	70	29	79·5	13·24	—
September	68	90	71	19	80·5	9·89	—
October	67	92	73	19	82·5	3·19	—
November	58	90	70	27	83·5	—	E
December	49	93	58	35	75·5	—	"
Total	628	1,132	788	361	963·5	33·99	—
Average ...	52·3	94·3	65·6	30·1	80·3	—	—

Meteorological Return for the year 1912. *MacCarthy Island.*

Month.	Temperatures.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	General Direction.
January	—	100	54	46	77·0	—	N.
February	—	106	55	51	80·5	—	N.W.
March	—	110	60	50	85·0	—	"
April	—	110	63	47	86·5	—	"
May	—	115	57	58	86·0	—	"
June	—	108	53	55	80·5	2·15	"
July	—	100	55	45	77·5	4·96	Variable.
August	—	100	59	41	79·5	13·52	"
September	—	100	60	40	80·0	10·88	"
October	—	100	60	40	80·0	2·10	"
November	—	101	59	42	80·0	·52	"
December	—	101	50	50	75·0	—	S.W.
Total	—	1,250	685	565	977·5	34·13	—
Average ...	—	104·1	57·0	47·0	81·4	—	—

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal.

87. There is a fortnightly mail service between Liverpool and Bathurst. The main feature of this communication is the unpunctuality of the homeward mail steamers. Of the latter, 23 out of 27 were late, seven being ten or more days over time. Mails are occasionally forwarded to England *viâ* Dakar and some continental port by trading vessels.

88. Internal communication is maintained by steamers or launches, of which there are a number belonging to the principal firms. These vessels make frequent trips up the river during the trading season, and are ready to carry passengers and freight.

89. There are two post offices established in the Colony, one, the head office, being in Bathurst, and the other in MacCarthy Island.

90. The following general return shows the steady increase in the volume of business done in the post office, and gives an indication of the prosperity of the Colony during recent years.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Total number of letters, parcels, &c. dealt with.	Total value of Money and Postal Orders issued and paid.
	£	£		£
1908	683	757	112,056	4,133
1909	2,325	820	110,682	4,848
1910	1,625	864	124,835	12,626
1911	1,811	818	128,265	14,386
1912	4,624	995	135,269	16,211

91. The "Cash on Delivery" service is in force. The existing laws relating to postal matters were consolidated and revised and embodied in the "Post Office Ordinance, 1912," enacted during the year.

Telegraph and Telephone Services.

92. The African Direct Telegraph Company has a station at Bathurst. The ordinary rate to the United Kingdom is 3*s.* 2*d.* per word. Deferred cables at half-rate may be despatched.

93. There is no inland telegraph. Most Government Departments, some official quarters, the Bank of British West Africa, and Government House at Cape St. Mary are connected by telephone.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

94. The Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force contains the only regular troops in the Colony.

95. The Company forms a detached command of the West African Frontier Force, and is inspected by the Inspector-General at his periodical visits.

96. The Gambia Artillery is a Volunteer Force mostly recruited from clerks in the Government offices.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

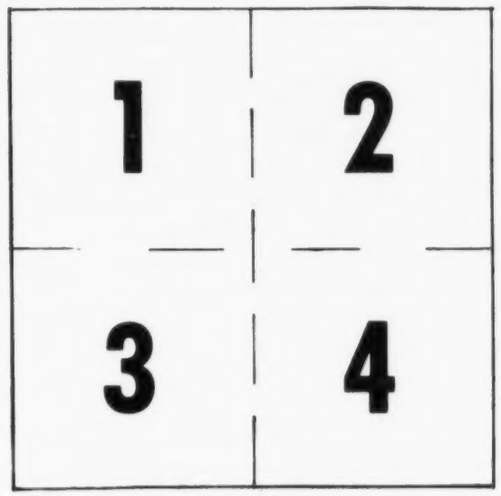
97. No event of particular importance occurred during the year 1912, which was one of general progress in the Gambia.

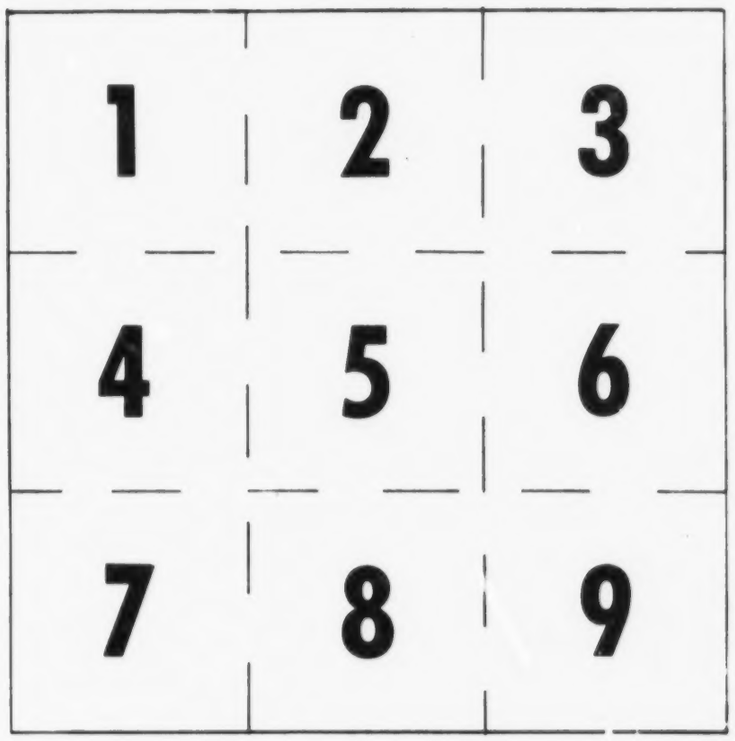
98. The immigration of native farmers from French territories adjoining the Protectorate continued during the year. While some of these immigrants only visit the Protectorate to sow and harvest a crop of ground-nuts, very many of them become permanent residents. The number of emigrants is very small.

99. No public work of any great importance was completed during the year. Some progress was made with the dredging of the Walli Kunda channel. Dredging was also carried out alongside the Government wharf at Bathurst. The survey of Bathurst was completed and the construction of the new bridge at Oyster Creek was continued. This and all other work of a similar nature is greatly handicapped by the inefficiency of the labourers available and by the necessity for suspending operations during the rains. The anti-malaria campaign was actively prosecuted by the Board of Health. Valuable work in this direction was carried out by the Town Warden, who superintended the operations of a gang which succeeded in clearing several acres of swamp from mangrove in the vicinity of Half Die. The Public Works Department was engaged in the building of additional and the renovation of existing quarters for officials, and in commencing the erection of a new post office.

100. There were no changes in the constitution of the Colony. Very necessary additions to the establishment were made during 1912, and the preceding year, by appointing assistants to the heads of the principal departments. These appointments will admit of a policy of continuity in the administration of the departments concerned being possible. The necessity for senior and other officers proceeding on leave at the expiration of their tours of service, and for their being transferred to other departments to hold acting appointments, entails frequent changes. They are not conducive to the maintenance of routine or departmental efficiency. As instances of such changes it may be mentioned that the Post Office and Treasury were administered by four and the Secretariat by five different officers in 1912. The condition of these departments at the end of the twelve months testified, not to the excellence of such a system, which had of necessity to be followed, but to the zeal and efficiency displayed by the several officers holding acting appointments therein during the year.

Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.





GAMBIA

A 16°30′ B C 16°0′ D E 15°30′ F G

14°0′ 13°30′

1 2 3

NIUM-BATO

Misira Mina Maka Jimara Rocks Jokako Kuntang Ker Chende Tuba M' Bolett Ker Jatta Taiba Kamuma Berrending Niana Farra (Hamacoda) Juffett Bumiadu Essau Barra Point Cape St Mary Gouf Ho Kamalo Dr. Oyster Cr. Hatu Lullra Kotu Pt Tarahakunda Bijilo Bakalli Sukuto Laltwakunda Bijol Pt Rocks Bald Cape Brufut Lamin Beretto Tanjen Busumbalai Yundum Mandinari Solifor Pt Rocks Tufurei Jambur Kunkujan Saniang Brikama Kiti Manduari Bassori Kafuta Gunjur Makuda Sika Jakkai Lamin Subanja Albreda Alijamadu Sita Nunku Pakkau Bakkendik Sissora (Bakalari) Bathurst (Banjul) St Mary I. Mangroves Dog Island Point Lamin Point Fort James I. (St Mark I.) Kafuta or Faraba Bolon Sapsankoto Island Bassori Bamboo Forest Foraba Sutu Foraba Santa Long Grass Brefet Baijan Thiandi Kalagi Badjorta Tumba Bakanja Kunkujan Bamboo Forest Kamboji Mandinaba Pirang Tunjina Kubuna Wf. Dog Island Point Mansa Konda Darra Pakkau Pakkai Pakkai Lamin Point Madina Cr. Point Barra Point Essau Juffett Bumiadu Berrending Niana Farra (Hamacoda) Kamuma Kotu Pt Bijilo Bakalli Hatu Lullra Tarahakunda Sukuto Laltwakunda Bijol Pt Rocks Bald Cape Brufut Lamin Beretto Tanjen Busumbalai Yundum Mandinari Solifor Pt Rocks Tufurei Jambur Kunkujan Saniang Brikama Kiti Manduari Bassori Kafuta Gunjur Makuda Sika Jakkai Lamin Subanja Albreda Alijamadu Sita Nunku Pakkau Bakkendik Sissora (Bakalari) Bathurst (Banjul) St Mary I. Mangroves Dog Island Point Lamin Point Fort James I. (St Mark I.) Kafuta or Faraba Bolon Sapsankoto Island Bassori Bamboo Forest Foraba Sutu Foraba Santa Long Grass Brefet Baijan Thiandi Kalagi Badjorta Tumba Bakanja Kunkujan Bamboo Forest Kamboji Mandinaba Pirang Tunjina Kubuna Wf. Dog Island Point Mansa Konda Darra Pakkau Pakkai Pakkai Lamin Point Madina Cr. Point

N' Jai Kunda Wakanguna Ker Sambamà Panne Joben Taiba Ker Bilambale Nioro Ker Tamba Potochin Thiodord Dagalburo Ker Natta Ker Safo Janjen Killa Killa Dama Bulabaki Kantora Ker Musa Ker Yoro Mama Ker Mata Kodia Ker Mata Ibrama Ker Tenba Ker Sandi Kuli Ker Alsan Bali Bunga Badir Drame Joka Tuba Ghumbujo Ker Banga Kinti Kunda Kalloa Nja Kunda (Njabsa Ko) No Kunda Dai Madina Rice Farms Kuntair Jagg Janna Memme Kanta Kunda Karantaba Dalalami Saba Bano Sana Jammi Kunda Mandori Rice Farms Kassewa Karantaba Korewan Salikeni Duntugmolang Tunku Katchang Jokadu or Joka Creek Janna (Yumba) Jama Ken Jurunku Nani Sami Sika Sika Point Bintang Point Bintang Bolon Willimissa Juoli Tankular (Tankurar) Makka Janna Kunda Karantaba Kemnang Burrong Taba Woro (Taburo Kolo) Ghisse Kenniba Kantom Kunda Jang-maru Baijana Battelling Naningkos Kwinella Forest Wurokang Dumbutu (Saniang Kunda) Jali Point Tendaba Farinding Wharf Kuli Kunda Bamboo Forest Bintang Bolon Bintang Nali Battending Kajjarra Kanauk Kamunnaro Bassen Jalang Fula Mambini Kansala Giramba Kallang Kayaba Kandiendi Kawali Bundali Sintet Jenoi Kangicamba Kandiung Kansambu Kadjallon Bapekuli Kamino Kabala Sutuk Kaiaba Kamba Kansala Sanjal Bantanding Ker Alsan Bali Bunga Badir Drame Joka Tuba Ghumbujo Kuntair Jagg Janna Memme Kanta Kunda Karantaba Dalalami Saba Kassewa Karantaba Korewan Salikeni Rice Farms Rice Farms Jokadu or Joka Creek Janna (Yumba) Jama Ken Jurunku Nani Sami Sika Sika Point Bintang Point Bintang Bolon Willimissa Juoli Tankular (Tankurar) Makka Janna Kunda Karantaba Kemnang Burrong Taba Woro (Taburo Kolo) Ghisse Kenniba Kantom Kunda Jang-maru Baijana Battelling Naningkos Kwinella Forest Wurokang Dumbutu (Saniang Kunda) Jali Point Tendaba Farinding Wharf Kuli Kunda Bamboo Forest Bintang Bolon Bintang Nali Battending Kajjarra Kanauk Kamunnaro Bassen Jalang Fula Mambini Kansala Giramba Kallang Kayaba Kandiendi Kawali Bundali Sintet Jenoi Kangicamba Kandiung Kansambu Kadjallon Bapekuli Kamino Kabala Sutuk Kaiaba Kamba Kansala Sanjal Bantanding

Nioro Ker Tamba Potochin Thiodord Dagalburo Ker Natta Ker Safo Janjen Killa Killa Dama Bulabaki Kantora Ker Musa Ker Yoro Mama Ker Mata Kodia Ker Mata Ibrama Ker Tenba Ker Sandi Kuli Ker Alsan Bali Bunga Badir Drame Joka Tuba Ghumbujo Ker Banga Kinti Kunda Kalloa Nja Kunda (Njabsa Ko) No Kunda Dai Madina Rice Farms Kuntair Jagg Janna Memme Kanta Kunda Karantaba Dalalami Saba Kassewa Karantaba Korewan Salikeni Rice Farms Duntugmolang Tunku Katchang Jokadu or Joka Creek Janna (Yumba) Jama Ken Jurunku Nani Sami Sika Sika Point Bintang Point Bintang Bolon Willimissa Juoli Tankular (Tankurar) Makka Janna Kunda Karantaba Kemnang Burrong Taba Woro (Taburo Kolo) Ghisse Kenniba Kantom Kunda Jang-maru Baijana Battelling Naningkos Kwinella Forest Wurokang Dumbutu (Saniang Kunda) Jali Point Tendaba Farinding Wharf Kuli Kunda Bamboo Forest Bintang Bolon Bintang Nali Battending Kajjarra Kanauk Kamunnaro Bassen Jalang Fula Mambini Kansala Giramba Kallang Kayaba Kandiendi Kawali Bundali Sintet Jenoi Kangicamba Kandiung Kansambu Kadjallon Bapekuli Kamino Kabala Sutuk Kaiaba Kamba Kansala Sanjal Bantanding

N' Jok N' Jeri Kanuma N' Baien Bamba Mamadu Pate Sin Biram Ker Ali Ja Dasilam Ker K Thalor Makhana Jau Bambali Luba Bambali Ker Bakari Sise Chogen Danku M' Baien N' Dakar N' Guk Diamma Bamba Musa Taba Jelen Panchang Diamma Paten Jokul Sise Kaimor Kaimor N' Diba Kaimor Sonkoron Ker Sam Vintenku Nia Gui Waka Gui Ker Alfa Diamma Paten Ker Tierno Tuba Ker Tiendu Bulgha N' Jau Leba Jagen Ker Musa Kumba Bubujoro Ker Tierno Simbarra Kai Banja N' Gege Jaggu Medina N' Dengen Bakari Mengne Ker Baka Ker Sadebu Chelen Passi N' Geyen Kau-ur Jau Kau-ur Jura Kundo Bantanto Ker Haip Sin N' Geyen Soto Palen N' Geyen Dundel Ballangar Binlinta Buntung Kai Hoja Sara Alfa Carrol's Wharf Pasul I. Kaiang Kudang Sakala Pause Rip N' Guer Siwol Medina M' Bap Thoen Biram Yacin Ja Koto Baro Kunda Jallo Koto (Sama) Taba Worro N' Geyen Sanjal Miserg M' Bap Farafenni Tamin Fatim (Tuba) Kussaka (Kasujang) Sukotto M' Palen N' Jaien Lumen Katamina Dankunku Piniai Choya Kubendax Dankadenka Beretto Taiba Kataba (M.) Kumbija Bangkolia Sarra Kunda Tamba Koto Tendaito Wasadang Kunjetta Duhaasnan Barra Kanda Madina Sukikung Dasalami Nieja (Sajuka) Sare Guira Sare Sambel Juli Samba Sare Alep Wellingara Jabang Jaba Sare Sunkari Tako Baronne Kumba T Balingo Krul Pt Devil Pt Jenoi Pakali N' Ding Jabis Karantaba Soma Toniataba Jillo Mandina Massembe Sotokoi Toranka Bantang Kaiaf Jabellia Jappeni Kaleringotto (Willimara) Jassong (Sukoto) Baiyanto Wassadung Sukuto Bani Sano Ba Sare Dabatto Bukit Jumbuno Fonkoi Bambadala Jama Kuta Sare Amali Buruko Buruko Sare N' Jai Donyara Sare Kumba Amali Sare Suma Samba Undere Jiganti Sare Bubaka Jama Lakelo Kasekau Bulundu Tankon Bussenkiel Barata Tabara Kolon Guinani Sare Biram Sare Lamin Jalaba Sare Boi

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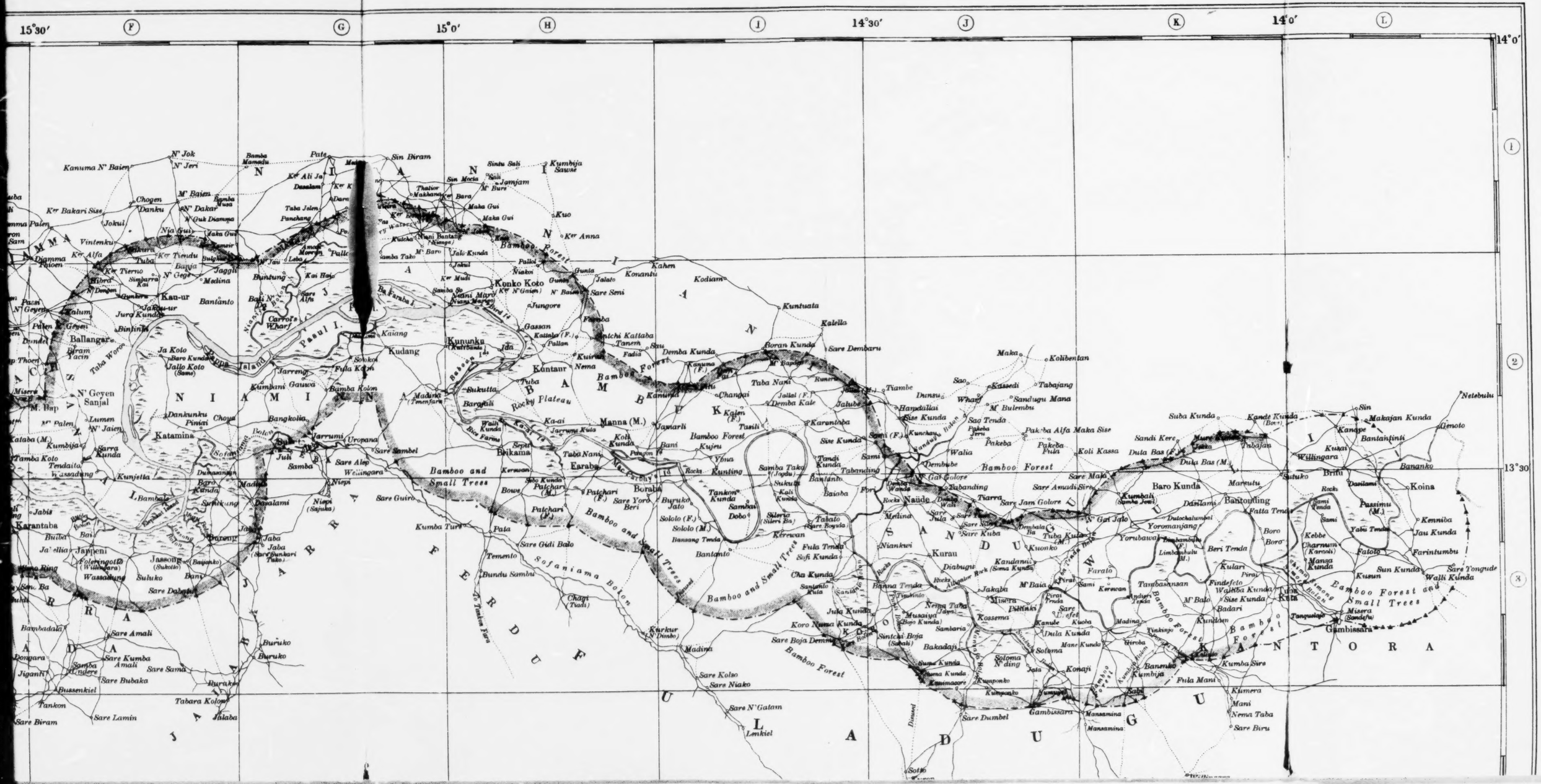
GAMBIA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Maka
Kolibentan
Netebulu
Suba Kunda
Kande Kunda (Bori)
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Makajan Kunda
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Kukai
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Sutuko
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Farintumbu
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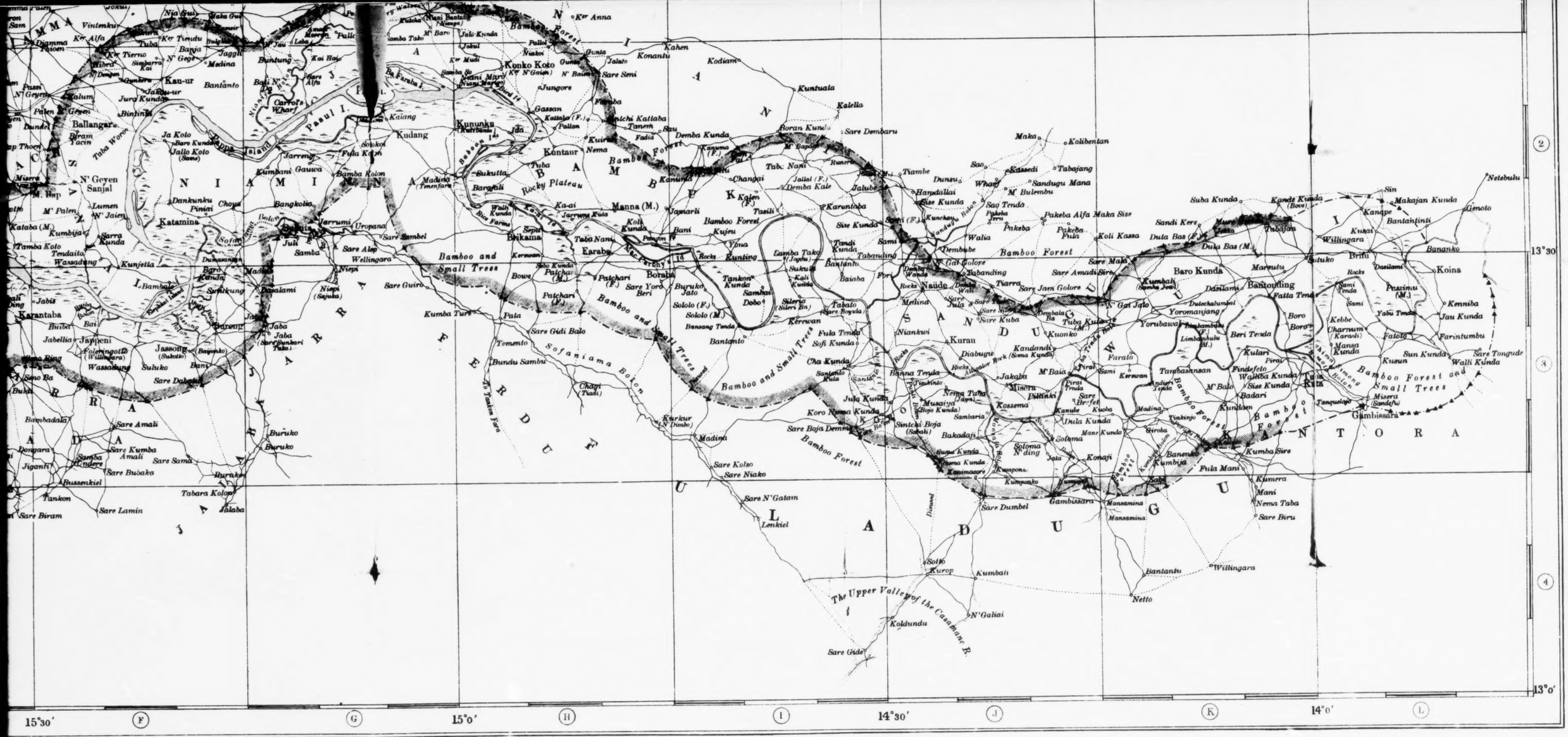
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Manna (M.)
Jamarli
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101. The services of Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. M. O'Brien, C.M.G., as Colonial Secretary were lost to the Gambia at the latter end of the year on his promotion to the Governorship of the Seychelles.

102. Climatic conditions in the Gambia are unsuitable for the performance of manual labour by Europeans. Native labour was difficult to obtain. The scarcity of labour, due to the successful ground-nut harvest, caused a rise in wages. This, together with an advance of 10 per cent. in freight charges, increased the cost of living.

103. Capital might be invested with some profit provided that it was in the hands of competent persons with local experience who are independent of the ordinary Gambian labourer, who is in the happy position of having few wants, which are easily supplied, and is consequently not driven by stern necessity to work.

104. The year was one of peace and contentment. Many signs were given of the satisfaction existing among the natives regarding the benefits attached to living in the Colony and Protectorate under the British flag. The prosperity and peace reigning in the Protectorate is a tribute to the work, ably and patiently carried out, of the Travelling Commissioners, who have succeeded in gaining the confidence and regard of the natives.

105. With a continuation of favourable seasons and of the progressive policy of recent years there is every indication that the prosperity of the Colony and Protectorate and the happiness of the various communities therein will continue to increase.

W. T. CAMPBELL,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
5th July, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	"
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	"
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	"
750	Straits Settlements	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate...	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar	1912
756	St. Helena	"
757	Weihaiwai	"
758	Ceylon	1911–1912
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	"
761	Somaliland	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
764	Falkland Islands	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
766	Bahamas	1912–1913

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.

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1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 805.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 767.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1914.

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No. 805.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 767.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
18th July, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1913, together with a Report thereon which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. T. Campbell.

The Report is somewhat late, owing, Mr. Campbell explains, to his absence on leave until April of this year.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street, London.

(C61) Wt.36076/850. 1625 & 90. 8.14. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/4.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue for the year was £124,995 0*s*. 5*d*., an excess of £38,540 19*s*. 8*d*. and £28,773 6*s*. 6*d*. over the two previous record years, 1911 and 1912, respectively.

2. The estimated revenue for 1913 was £85,450, or £39,545 less than was received.

3. The following table gives the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue during the years 1912 and 1913 with the several increases or decreases :—

Head of Revenue.	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	72,852	97,691	24,839	—
Port Dues	1,311	1,987	676	—
Licences, Excise, etc. ..	2,064	3,004	940	—
Fees of Court	1,746	2,681	935	—
Post Office	4,624	1,714	—	2,910
Rent of Government Property	400	507	107	—
Government Vessels ..	1	1	—	—
Interest	3,167	4,883	1,716	—
Protectorate	8,910	10,613	1,703	—
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	634	1,236	602	—
Land Sales	512	673	161	—
Total	96,221	124,990	31,679	2,910

4. The principal increases were in (1) Customs, (2) Licences, (3) Interest, (4) Protectorate, and are accounted for by (1) the increased wealth of the natives due to the record ground-nut crop, which created a greater demand for dutiable articles, more especially kola-nuts, sugar, spirits and tobacco—the increased consumption, it may be noted, of these imports is not wholly on the part of the natives of the Colony and Protectorate, since a large percentage of these commodities find their way over the borders to French territory ; (2) a larger number of spirit licences, several being issued to new firms ; (3) an increase in Investments, and (4) by a greater number of Traders' Licences issued, Farm Rents received, and Court Fines levied in the Protectorate during the year.

5. The only decrease, which amounted to £2,910, under the head of Post Office, was due to a falling off in the sale of stamps. Dealers have apparently completed their purchases of the new issue.

6. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure for the year was £95,209, or £13,869 more than that for 1912. The estimated expenditure was £104,942, or £9,733 more than was actually incurred.

7. The following is a

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1909–1913.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909..	72,675	56,237
1910..	82,880	63,301
1911..	86,454	71,390
1912..	96,221	81,340
1913..	124,990	95,209

It will be seen that the increase in the year's revenue over that of 1912 was more than the total increases of the years 1910, 1911 and 1912.

8. There was no important change in taxation during the year.

9. On the 31st December, 1912, assets exceeded liabilities by £107,731 10*s.* 0*d.*; twelve months later the excess was £137,585 3*s.* 5*d.*, an increase of £29,853 13*s.* 5*d.*

10. Surplus funds invested in Government securities, the cost price of which was £94,090 2*s.* 3*d.*, amounted on the 31st December, 1913, to £98,613 18*s.* 10*d.* as compared with £94,775 10*s.* 9*d.* invested on the 31st December, 1912. There was also a sum of £39,000 on deposit with the London County and Westminster Bank. There is no public debt at present.

11. The West African coinage was introduced during the year and is current in the Colony and Protectorate. Silver is legal tender to any amount. English coins are also in circulation as well as a number of five franc pieces. The exchange value of the latter is three shillings and ten pence halfpenny. There is only one bank, that of British West Africa, in the Colony. The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during 1913 was one per cent.

12. The Board of Health is the only municipal board in the Colony. It is composed of official and non-official members and is presided over by the Senior Medical Officer.

13. The revenue of the Board of Health is derived from a five per cent. rate, increased from three per cent. during the year, annually assessed, in the town of Bathurst, from market and slaughter-house fees, a Government grant-in-aid, and from miscellaneous receipts. In 1913 these were:—local rates, £1,306 13*s.* 0*d.*; market and slaughter-house fees, £93 19*s.* 6*d.*; grant-in-aid, £2,228; and miscellaneous receipts £130 0*s.* 9*d.*; a total of £3,758 13*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with £2,867 16*s.* 7*d.* in 1912.

14. The expenditure of the Board, including personal emoluments, scavenging, lighting, upkeep of houses and carts, etc., amounted to £2,778 6*s.* 7*d.*, as against £2,588 13*s.* 3*d.* in 1912.

15. The revenue and expenditure of the Board of Health during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1909	1,047	1,181
1910	1,286	1,443
1911	2,237	2,199
1912	2,867	2,588
1913	3,758	2,778

16. MacCarthy Square is under a Board similarly constituted as the Board of Health. The square is situated in the centre of the town and is used as a parade ground by the West African Frontier Force, and as a general recreation ground. The upkeep of the square is provided for by a grant—£125 in 1913—from the Government.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

17. *Trade.*—The trade of the Colony continued to flourish during 1913 and exceeded that of any previous year.

18. *Imports.*—The total value of all imports was £1,091,129, as compared with £756,853 in 1912.

Specie.—Bullion and specie to the value of £471,835 were imported during the year, as against £285,223 in 1912.

19. The following is a table of the

CHIEF ARTICLES IMPORTED AND THE VALUE THEREOF DURING 1912–1913.

ARTICLE.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Cotton Goods	124,345	201,797
Hardware	23,021	27,276
Kola Nuts	86,111	91,381
Rice	85,763	62,512
Spirits	10,959	17,141
Sugar	5,785	19,422
Salt	2,589	3,630
Tobacco	9,011	15,488
Wine	2,685	4,585

20. *Increases and Decreases.*—From the foregoing table it will be seen that there were increases, mostly substantial ones, under each head with the exception of rice, the importation of which decreased to the value of £23,251. This may be accounted for by the importation in 1912 of an excessive quantity and the larger amount of native corn, planted during the season 1912, being available for consumption.

21. Excluding specie the percentages of imports from the various countries in 1912 and 1913 were as follows :—

	1912.	1913.
Great Britain	42	40·64
British Possessions	18	15·26
	— 60	—— 55·90
France and French Possessions	22	27·55
Germany	13	10·25
Other Countries	5	6·30

22. The growth of the import trade during the last five years will be seen in the following table :—

Article.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Specie ..	146,620	208,544	384,784	285,223	471,835
Other articles	257,940	370,439	422,334	471,630	619,294
Total ..	404,560	578,983	807,118	756,853	1,091,129

23. *Exports.*—The total value of all exports was £867,187, as compared with £735,172 in 1912.

Specie.—Specie to the value of £204,781 was exported. This is £8,202 more than the value of the previous year's export.

24. The following is a

RETURN OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT AND THEIR VALUES IN 1912 AND 1913.

Article.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.
			£	£
Calabashes .. packages	2,572	1,739	3,340	2,226
Ground-nuts .. tons	64,169	67,404	502,069	622,098
Hides .. .. No.	49,107	47,031	15,117	18,718
Ivory .. .. lbs.	1,236	1,258	172	54
Palm-kernels .. tons	445	546	6,518	9,026
Rubber .. lbs.	4,355	12,995	409	1,027
Wax .. .. lbs.	30,830	31,518	1,164	990

25. *Increases.*—These occurred in (1) ground-nuts. The previous record exportation, in 1912, was exceeded by 3,235 tons in weight and £120,029 in value; (2) Hides. This increase was in value only; (3) Palm-kernels. It is satisfactory to find a considerable increase under this head. Such increase is not likely to continue while ground-nuts are a more profitable article of export; (4) Rubber and Wax show an increase, but the trade thereon still remains small and there are no indications of any great improvement.

26. *Decreases.*—Calabashes, mostly exported to the Colony of Sierra Leone, and hides are the only articles of export showing a decrease during the year. Although hides decreased as regards numbers there was an increase in their value. This may be accounted for by native fellmongers paying more attention to curing.

27. The development of the ground-nut and palm-kernel trade during the last five years is shown in the following :—

RETURN SHOWING THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF GROUND-NUTS AND PALM-KERNELS EXPORTED DURING THE YEARS 1909 TO 1913.

ARTICLE.		1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Ground-nuts	Weight. Tons.	53,644	58,456	47,931	64,169	67,404
	Value. £	323,231	387,943	437,472	502,069	622,098
Palm-kernels	Weight. Tons.	389	467	444	445	546
	Value. £	3,526	5,640	4,758	6,518	9,026

28. The percentages of exports, excluding specie, in 1912 and 1913 were :—

	1912.	1913.
Great Britain and British Possessions ..	9·00	6·72
France and French Possessions	76·00	59·10
Holland	9·00	6·03
Germany	3·64	24·56
Other Countries	2·36	3·59

29. *Agriculture.*—The ground-nut still continues to be the only article actively cultivated for exportation and is likely to continue so while in good demand and until some more easily grown crop for which there is a market is discovered by the local non-strenuous agriculturist.

30. The policy of arranging seed nuts to be supplied through the Government was continued and no doubt tended towards larger areas being placed under cultivation.

31. The amount of cereals, such as rice, koos, or millet, grown was not more than sufficient for local consumption.

32. Land is granted in small areas; the leasehold may be acquired. The rent for small lots suitable for trading stations ranges from about three pounds upwards. A decision was come to during the year not to dispose of freehold interests in Crown lands save in exceptional circumstances. No leases are issued in the first instance for more than twenty-one years.

33. The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 583, with a total of 625,132 tons, as compared with 556, and 583,458 tons in 1912.

34. The following returns give the

TONNAGE OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN VESSELS (*a*) ENTERED AND (*b*) CLEARED IN THE YEARS 1912 AND 1913.

(*a*) *Tonnage of Vessels Entered.*

Nationality.	1912.			1913.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ..	180,272	379	180,651	185,522	264	185,786
Foreign ..	106,190	3,387	109,577	123,694	3,311	127,005
TOTAL ..	286,462	3,766	290,228	309,216	3,575	312,791

(*b*) *Tonnage of Vessels Cleared.*

Nationality.	1912.			1913.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ..	180,835	397	181,232	185,399	234	185,633
Foreign ..	107,944	4,054	111,988	123,521	3,187	126,708
TOTAL ..	288,779	4,451	293,230	308,920	3,421	312,341

Total Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

British ..	361,107	776	361,883	370,921	498	371,419
Foreign ..	214,134	7,441	221,575	247,215	6,498	253,713
TOTAL ..	575,241	8,217	583,458	618,136	6,996	625,132

Of the total number of vessels entered and cleared at Bathurst during the year, 226 were British (37 sailing and 189 steam) and 357 foreign (99 sailing and 258 steam). The aggregate tonnage of British vessels was 117,706 tons more than that of foreign vessels. The excess in 1912 was 140,308.

35. The following is a

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION, TONNAGE AND NATIONALITY OF ALL VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED DURING 1912 AND 1913.

Nationality of Vessels.	1912.			1913.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	ons.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ..	361,107	776	361,883	370,921	498	371,419
French ..	80,536	1,230	81,766	74,495	1,775	76,270
German ..	52,940	2	52,942	60,626	—	60,626
Russian ..	2,296	—	2,296	—	—	—
American ..	—	609	609	—	428	428
Norwegian .	14,141	—	14,141	20,426	—	20,426
Portuguese .	—	4,158	4,158	—	4,295	4,295
Danish ..	14,124	1,232	15,356	24,040	—	24,040
Swedish ..	13,526	—	13,526	11,740	—	11,740
Greek ..	31,244	—	31,244	33,278	—	33,278
Dutch ..	2,937	—	2,937	—	—	—
Spanish ..	—	210	210	2,736	—	2,736
Italian ..	—	—	—	18,460	—	18,460
Belgian ..	2,390	—	2,390	—	—	—
Uruguayan .	—	—	—	1,414	—	1,414
TOTAL ..	575,241	8,217	583,458	618,136	6,996	625,132

III.—LEGISLATION.

36. There were no legislative measures of great importance carried during the year. Thirty-four Ordinances, many of which were amending ones, were passed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

37. The Government does not maintain any schools, of which there are four in the Colony. One of these is established by the Mohammedans and the others by the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Missionary Societies. The schools of each of these three denominations is under a European Superintendent. The Government contributes £150 per annum towards the salary of each Superintendent. A grant is also made towards the salaries of the teachers in the Mohammedan School and the provision of prizes therein. Under the Education Ordinance further grants-in-aid are provided. These are based on the average attendance of pupils and on the results of examinations held by the Government Inspector of Schools.

38. There are four affiliated schools in Bathurst, of which the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan bodies have two each, one for boys and one for girls, and the Anglican Church has one. The numbers of pupils on the registers during 1913 were

Schools.	No.
Roman Catholic (2)	408
Wesleyan (2)	641
Anglican (1)	88

The Wesleyan denomination has another school at MacCarthy Island, which had 66 pupils on the register.

39. The only secondary and technical education in the Colony is provided by the Wesleyan Church which has a non-affiliated secondary school, in Bathurst, for boys and a Technical and Industrial School. The Government gives an annual grant of £300 to the latter school, which is examined once a year by a Government nominee.

40. A Board of leading Mohammedans manages the Mohammedan School, which had 85 pupils on the roll during the year. The Board, formerly under the Chairmanship of the Governor, is now presided over by the Inspector of Schools. The pupils in this school are taught elementary subjects in English and Arabic and the study of the Koran. The total number of pupils presented for examination at the annual general examination was 37, of whom only 8 passed.

41. The total number of pupils attending all the schools during the year was 1,295, as compared with 1,452 in 1912. The decrease is probably due to the prosperity of the Colony, which enables traders to take their children to places in the Protectorate where there are no schools.

42. The subject Elementary Hygiene and Sanitation is compulsory in Standards VI and VII of the schools. The Government provided £10 for prizes to teachers successful in obtaining hygiene certificates.

43. The irregular attendance of pupils at the various schools causes education to be carried on with difficulty. While children in the Colony are not more keen in attending school than is the case elsewhere parents are, perhaps, not so alive to the advantages of education.

44. The income of the affiliated schools during the year was £1,615 16*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with £1,846 3*s.* 9½*d.* in 1912. This income is derived from school fees, contributions by owners and Government grants. The expenditure on buildings, repairs, school materials, salaries, and miscellaneous expenses equalled the revenue.

Industrial and Technical School.

45. There were seventeen pupils on the books of this school, which is situated in Bathurst; of these, four were in the last year of their apprenticeship. The value of work performed during the year was £179 4*s.* 9*d.* The work included masonry, carpentry and joinery, painting, glazing, and general blacksmithing. The institution is a Wesleyan one, but all the pupils do not belong to that denomination, there being 7 Anglicans, 1 Roman Catholic and 1 Mohammedan on the rolls. The boys in the school show an improvement in being more willing to work and showing a greater desire for future employ-

ment on leaving. The obtaining of good posts by ex-pupils has acted as an incentive. Two ex-pupils returned to the Colony after undergoing a course of instruction in motor work and obtained employment under the Government. The institution is doing useful work for Bathurst. It is to be regretted that it does not receive greater support to enable it to turn out more than two or three trained youths annually.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

46. There are two hospitals, one of which is at Bathurst and the other at MacCarthy Island. In the former accommodation is found for four first-class, eleven second-class and ten third-class male patients. There is also accommodation for seventeen female patients, including two cots for children. Four rooms are provided in addition for cases requiring isolation. The wards for males and females are in separate buildings.

47. The MacCarthy Island Hospital is in the charge of a European Medical Officer from October to June. During the remainder of the year, when there is only a small population on the island, a Native Dispenser is in charge. There is one ward for European and three wards for native patients. Thirty-four in-patients and 1,314 out-patients were treated during the year.

48. A contagious diseases hospital, situated about two miles from Bathurst, is also maintained. There was no epidemic in the Colony during the year. Small-pox, of which there were two cases only in Bathurst, was prevalent in a mild form in the Protectorate.

49. The Medical Staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer and five other Medical Officers, one of whom is the Medical Officer of Health at Bathurst. These are all members of the West African Medical Staff.

50. In addition to the Medical Officers, the hospital staff comprises four trained nurses (Europeans) and a number of native dispensers, dressers and nurses.

51. During the year 554, compared with 529 in 1912, in-patients were treated in the Bathurst hospital. There were 62 deaths.

52. The total number of out-patients treated was 8,134, compared with 7,895 in 1912.

53. Of the 62 deaths 14 were due to pneumonia and 10 to tetanus, while phthisis and peritonitis were responsible for four and three deaths respectively.

Home for Destitute and Afflicted Persons.

54. Seven males and one female were admitted to this Institution during the year. The Home also serves as a hospital for certain cases which the Senior Medical Officer may consider would be more comfortably attended to than in the General Hospital.

Government Savings Bank.

55. This institution, under the Postmaster General, continued to progress. At the end of the year there were 561 accounts, as against 501 in 1912, 470 in 1911, and 456 in 1910. The balance remaining on deposit was £5,553 10*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £5,267 11*s.* 6*d.* in 1912. The balances at the end of the years 1911 and 1910 were £5,037 6*s.* 7*d.* and £5,261 15*s.* 10*d.*, respectively. During the year the sum of £3,662 11*s.* 0*d.* was deposited, while £3,359 15*s.* 0*d.* was withdrawn. The interest payable was £127 7*s.* 11*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

56. The Police Force consists of a Superintendent of Police and an Assistant Superintendent, both of whom are Europeans, and 88 non-commissioned officers and men. The strength of the force was increased during the year by eight men. The alteration in the composition of the force, made in 1912, by which the ranks of corporal and lance-corporal were introduced has been successful, as was anticipated by the Superintendent, in improving the organization and discipline.

57. One non-commissioned officer and six men are stationed in the Protectorate.

58. There were 175 prosecutions by the police during the year, as against 157 in 1912. This considerable difference is not due to an increase of crime, but to the increase in the force, and to its greater efficiency and vigilance.

Prisoners.

59. The only prison in the Colony is situated in Bathurst. On the 1st January, 1913, there were 26 convicted prisoners remaining in gaol, while 150 were admitted during the year; 116 were discharged on, and 15 before, the expiration of their sentences. Three prisoners had their sentences remitted, while two died in hospital, forty prisoners remained on the 31st December. The fifteen prisoners discharged before the expiration of their sentences were imprisoned in default of payment of fines and debts. These were paid before the defaulters were released.

60. The health of the prisoners continued satisfactory.

61. The daily average number of prisoners during the last five years was as follows:—

1909	20·68
1910	23·78
1911	26·24
1912	27·50
1913	35·74

Criminal Statistics.

62. In the Supreme Court 19 cases were tried, as compared with 22 in 1912. These included one charge of attempted murder, which resulted in conviction, and three charges of manslaughter, in only one

of which was a conviction recorded. These cases came from the Protectorate; the remaining ones dealt with by the Supreme Court arose in the Colony. The latter comprised two cases of cattle stealing, resulting in one conviction, six cases of larceny, four of offences against property and two of miscellaneous offences (perjury and attempted escape from custody). These all resulted in conviction.

63. The small amount of serious crime in the Colony and Protectorate is again satisfactory.

64. The number of cases, 457, in the Police Court show an increase of 186 over the previous year. This excess is accounted for under offences against revenue laws, etc., and against the Public Health Ordinance of 1912, under which a number of summonses were issued for contravention of the sections of the Ordinance dealing with mosquito larvæ.

65. From the Protectorate 599 cases were reported, an increase of 133 over 1912. This difference is explained by 203 cases being reported from MacCarthy Island, 158 more than last year. The majority of these cases were breaches of regulations framed under the Protectorate Ordinances.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

66. The last census, taken in 1911, in the Colony and Protectorate gave the former a population of 7,700 and the latter one of 138,401, a total of 146,101 inhabitants. This number may be increased by 7,000 to allow for the migration of strange farmers from neighbouring territories during the years 1912 and 1913. This addition gives a total of 153,101 (approximate).

67. The numbers of births and deaths registered in each of those parts of the Colony to which registration applies, together with the total number therein for the year, are shown in the following table:—

Births—1913.

District.	Males.				Females.				Totals
	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	
Bathurst	—	115	7	—	—	128	3	1	254
British Kombo	—	7	—	—	—	4	—	—	11
Ceded Mile	—	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	7
MacCarthy Island	—	13	—	—	—	7	—	—	20
Total..	—	138	7	—	—	143	3	1	292

Deaths—1913.

District.	Males.				Females.				Totals
	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	
Bathurst	2	144	4	3	—	124	5	—	282
British Kombo	—	8	—	—	—	3	—	—	11
Ceded Mile	—	12	—	—	—	5	—	—	17
MacCarthy Island	—	16	—	—	—	8	—	1	25
Total ..	2	180	4	3	—	140	5	1	335

The causes of the deaths of the two Europeans who died were fracture base of skull and revolver shot wound.

68. The following is a

COMPARATIVE RETURN SHOWING THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN BATHURST, BRITISH KOMBO, THE CEDED MILE AND MACCARTHY ISLAND DURING THE FIVE YEARS 1909–1913.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1909	339	330	—	9
1910	363	385	22	—
1911	306	318	12	—
1912	303	336	33	—
1913	292	335	43	—

69. The death-rate in Bathurst showed an improvement. The number of deaths was the lowest recorded during the last ten years. The reduced number of deaths may be attributed to some extent to the late onset of the rains and the exceptionally low rainfall during the year. This resulted in freeing the town of Bathurst from the accumulation of standing water in low-lying places. Sanitary improvements and increased vigilance on the part of the sanitary authorities also greatly assisted in lowering the death-rate, which was 21·42 per 1,000.

70. An endeavour was made to reduce the infantile mortality. A class of native women was formed, and a Medical Officer delivered simple lectures, with illustrations, on elementary dressing and midwifery. The class unfortunately was not successful, owing to the members failing to attend the lectures on the grounds that they had work to do and duties to perform in the Protectorate. Dr. Chartres, the Senior Medical Officer, continued his endeavours by publishing a pamphlet dealing with the precautions to be taken regarding

confinements andthe rearing of infants. The pamphlet was issued in the English, Joloff, and Mandingo languages and distributed in the Colony and Protectorate.

71. The number of Europeans, including females, residing in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was 173. Of these 53 were officials and 120 non-officials. Six, including three officials, were invalided to Europe during the year. Two Europeans, of whom one was an official, died.

72. Twenty-six marriages were registered, as against 20 in each of the preceding years. Ten marriage licences, seven more than in 1912, were issued.

73. There were 1,529 vaccinations performed at Bathurst and 2,480 in the Protectorate during the year.

74. The sanitation of Bathurst is attended to by the Board of Health, of which the Senior Medical Officer is Chairman and the Colonial Engineer and Superintendent of Police are ex-officio members. Six other members are appointed annually by the Governor. The services of a Senior Sanitary Officer are shared with the Colony of Sierra Leone. The officials of the Board consist of a Town Warden, an Assistant Town Warden, an Inspector and four Assistant Inspectors of Nuisances, a market clerk and a cemetery keeper, a groom, six carters, four lamplighters and forty labourers. The latter are increased to sixty during the rainy season.

75. In the Protectorate, where the Travelling Commissioners are guided by special Sanitary Instructions, prizes are given to the cleanest village in each Province. An improvement is to be found as regards sanitation in some villages but it will be a great number of years before the subject is adequately dealt with by a people the great majority of whom are not great believers in hygiene.

Climate.

76. The climate of the Gambia during some months of the dry season, which lasts from November to May, is pleasant. During the remaining months, known as "the rains," the conditions are similar to those experienced on the West Coast of Africa. Although these may not be quite so severe they are felt to be more trying, owing to the greater contrast between the dry and wet periods, than is the case elsewhere.

77. A Meteorological Station of the second class is maintained in Bathurst. During the year the highest shade temperature recorded in Bathurst was 104° and the lowest 57°. The rainfall was 23·68 inches, the lowest recorded for a number of years, as compared with 33·99 inches in 1912.

78. The following are the

METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS FOR BATHURST AND MACCARTHY ISLAND RESPECTIVELY.

Bathurst.

Months.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	General Directions.
January .	50	100	59	41	79·5	0·13	North.
February.	53	98	60	38	79·0	—	,,
March ..	52	100	63	37	81·5	—	Variable.
April ..	52	104	62	42	83·0	—	,,
May ..	53	93	57	36	75·0	—	,,
June ..	60	98	68	30	83·0	2·23	North-west.
July ..	66	90	68	22	80·0	3·00	East.
August ..	67	90	69	21	79·5	10·69	Variable.
September	66	95	69	26	82·0	6·08	,,
October ..	60	94	69	25	81·5	1·55	,,
November	60	98	67	31	82·5	—	,,
December	60	95	64	31	79·5	—	,,
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	23·68	
Average	58·2	96·2	64·6	31·6	80·5	—	

MacCarthy Island.

Months.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	General Directions.
January .	—	106	59	7	82·5	0·06	North-west.
February.	—	110	60	50	85·0	—	,,
March ..	—	110	60	50	85·0	—	,,
April ..	—	112	67	45	89·5	—	Variable.
May ..	—	112	65	47	88·5	1·31	,,
June ..	—	114	73	41	93·5	4·49	,,
July ..	—	112	65	47	88·5	6·25	,,
August ..	—	103	72	31	87·5	9·46	,,
September	—	Station		closed.	No	Record.	
October ..	—	Station		closed.	No	Record.	
November	—	104	64	40	84·0	—	Variable.
December.	—	103	60	43	81·5	0·43	,,
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	22·00	
Average for 10 months		108·6	64·5	44·1	86·5	—	

VIII.—POSTAL TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal.

79. There is a fortnightly mail service between Liverpool and Bathurst. The homeward service is most irregular. Mails are occasionally forwarded to England *via* Dakar and some continental post by trading vessels.

80. Internal communication is maintained by steamers or launches owned by trading firms. During the trading season these vessels make frequent trips up and down the river and are ready to convey passengers and freight.

81. There are two Post Offices established in the Colony, at Bathurst and MacCarthy Island respectively.

82. The revenue was reduced to about the normal amount owing to the requirements of dealers for the new Georgian issue of postage stamps having been satisfied.

83. The following return shows the volume of business transacted during each of the last five years :—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Total Number of Letters Parcels, &c., dealt with.	Total Value of Money and Postal Orders issued and paid.
	£	£		£
1909	2,325	820	110,682	4,848
1910	1,625	864	124,835	12,626
1911	1,811	818	128,265	14,386
1912	4,624	995	135,269	16,211
1913	1,714	843	157,324	20,947

The " Cash on Delivery " service is provided for.

Telegraph and Telephone Services.

84. There is one telegraph station, belonging to the African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, in Bathurst. The ordinary cable rate to the United Kingdom is three shillings and twopence per word. There is a deferred cable service, by which messages may be sent at half rate.

85. There is no inland telegraph. Most Government Offices, some official quarters, the Bank of British West Africa and Government House at Cape St. Mary are connected by telephone.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

86. The Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force contains the only regular troops in the Colony. The Company forms a detached command and is inspected periodically by the Inspector General.

87. The Gambia Artillery, a Volunteer Force, was disbanded during the year.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

88. The year was remarkable for being the most prosperous on record as regards the revenue received and the volume of trade.

89. No public work of great magnitude was completed. The construction of the Denton Bridge over Oyster Creek was proceeded with and a commencement made with the scheme for supplying Bathurst with a pipe-borne water supply from Lamin. These works made fair progress considering the scarcity and inefficiency of local labour. The Survey of the River Gambia was also continued. The Board of Health maintained its crusade against mosquitoes and did not relax its efforts to prosecute the occupiers of insanitary premises. Reclamation work at Half Die and other places in Bathurst was continued. The Public Works Department completed the new Post Office, erected various new buildings, and carried on its efforts to renovate and preserve ancient ones.

90. The constitution of the Colony remained unchanged.

91. Peace and contentment continued to reign in the Colony and Protectorate and, as regards the latter, showed that the natives appreciated the work, carried out in isolation and under many difficulties, of the Travelling Commissioners.

W. T. CAMPBELL,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
6th July, 1914.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE GAMBIA BLUE-BOOK REPORT 1913

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute During the Year 1912 for the Colony of the Gambia.

Minerals.—Fifteen small samples of clay obtained in the course of boring operations at Kossoun, Upper River Gambia, and a specimen of ironstone gravel dredged from the river at the same place were forwarded for examination. The clays, which varied in colour from cream to ochreous, might be suitable for the manufacture of bricks and coarse pottery in the Colony, but the samples were too small for technical trial. Larger samples were requested for this purpose. The ironstone gravel would be of no value for export, but might be suitable for local use by natives as an iron ore.

Poisonous Plants.—Specimens of a fruit which had caused poisoning symptoms when eaten were insufficient for chemical examination, but were identified at Kew as the immature fruits of a species of Datwia, probably *D. fastuosa*. This determination agreed with the poisoning symptoms described, which were those produced by solanaceous alkaloids.

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute During the Year 1913 for the Colony of the Gambia.

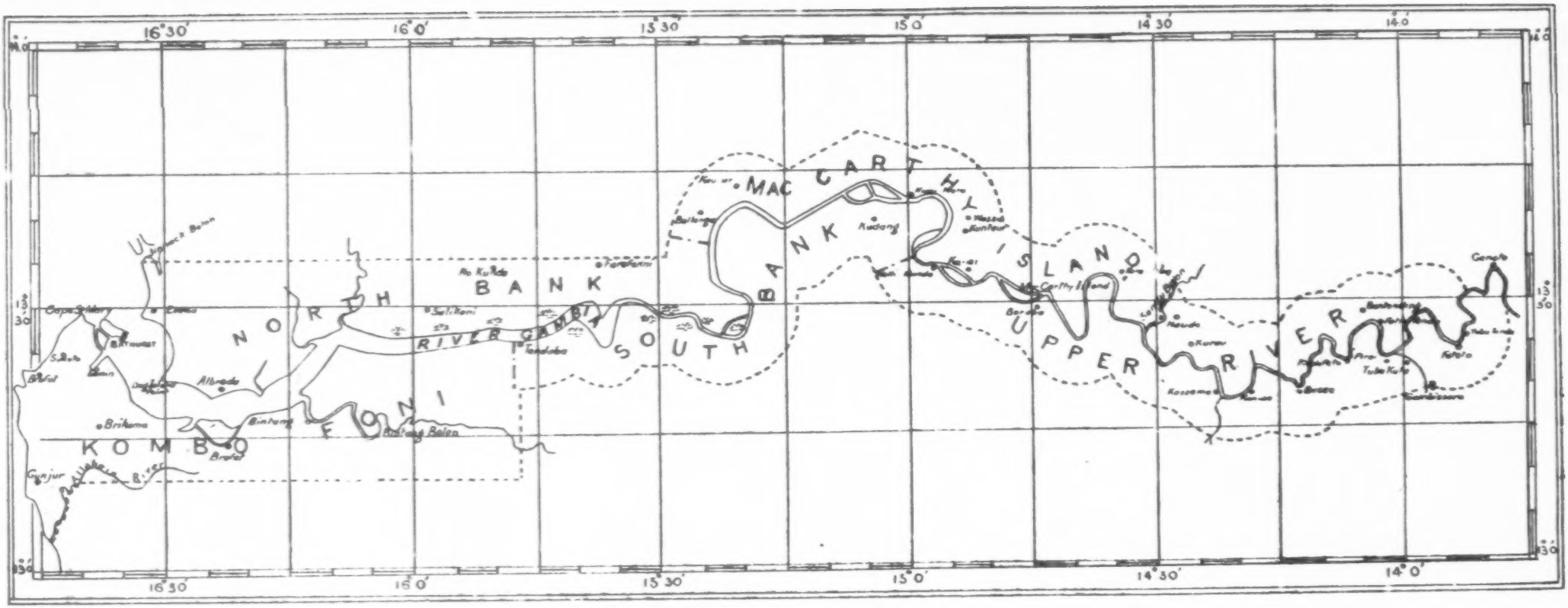
In continuation of the examination of a number of clays from the Gambia, alluded to in last year's report, further samples of two of the clays, of which large supplies were stated to be available, were furnished during 1913 in order that technical trials might be made and the value of the materials definitely determined.

A sample of yellow clay was found to be very plastic and easily worked, but it contained a quantity of gritty and ochreous material. The pottery made from it had not a smooth surface, and its light brick-red colour was disfigured in places by fragments of the ochreous constituent which had burnt to a yellowish-brown colour. The clay could be used in the crude condition for the manufacture of coarse earthenware, but it would be much improved by washing.

A sample of purple clay was also examined. It contained very little grit, and when thoroughly mixed with water gave a plastic material which could be readily worked. The clay after firing was of a light mauve tint, somewhat disfigured by reddish spots due to the presence of ochreous particles.

Both these clays could be used locally in the Gambia for the manufacture of bricks, tiles and earthenware, but they could not be remuneratively exported to Europe.

GAMBIA.



— Scale 20 miles to One Inch —

Miles 20 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 Miles

Reference

Anglo-French Boundary shewn .....

Provinces — · — — · — — · — — · — —

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
771	Ashanti	1912
772	Nyasaland	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912–1913
787	Uganda..	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago..	1912–1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	"
799	St. Helena	"
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
801	Seychelles	1913
802	Ceylon	"
803	Bermuda	"
804	Weihaiwei	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon..	Mineral Survey.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 861.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 805.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1915.

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No. 861.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 805.)

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Bathurst, Gambia,

14th April, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1914.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. T. CAMPBELL,

Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency

E. J. Cameron, Esq., C.M.G.,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

The Gambia.

(C200) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90 10.15. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue for the year was £86,070 12*s.* 7*d.* as compared with £96,221 13*s.* 11*d.* in 1912, and £124,995 0*s.* 5*d.* in 1913.

2. The estimated Revenue for the year was £100,888, or £14,817 7*s.* 5*d.* more than was actually received. The estimated revenue would have been obtained in the ordinary course of events. The influence of the war upon the trade of the Colony was most noticeable at an early date.

3. The amounts collected under the various heads of revenue during the years 1913 and 1914, with the several increases or decreases, were :—

Head of Revenue.	1913.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	97,691	60,525	—	37,166
Port Dues	1,987	1,816	—	170
Licences, Excise, etc. ..	3,004	1,681	—	1,323
Fees of Court	2,681	2,924	242	—
Post Office	1,714	1,376	—	338
Rent of Government Property	507	450	—	57
Government Vessels ..	1	—	—	1
Interest	4,883	4,521	—	361
Protectorate	10,613	11,150	536	—
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	1,236	974	—	261
Land Sales	673	650	—	23
Total	124,990	86,067	778	39,700

4. The principal increases were in (1) Fees of Court or Office, etc., and (2) Protectorate, and are accounted for by (1) increase in Court Fees, Customs Fees, Hospital Receipts, and Colonial Registrar's Fees, and (2) by a large influx of "Strange Farmers" with consequent increases in Hut Tax and Farm Rents.

5. The marked depression in trade due to the war and the consequent reduction in Imports, account for the large falling off under the heads "Customs" and "Port" Dues, while the decreases under "Licences" and "Interest" are attributable to the same causes. There has also been a decrease under the head "Post Office," due to a falling off in the sale of stamps to dealers in Europe.

6. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure for the year was £120,921 6*s.* 5*d.*, an increase of £25,712 6*s.* 5*d.* over that for 1913. The estimated expenditure was £108,375, or £12,546 6*s.* 5*d.* less than was actually incurred.

7. The following is a

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1910–1914.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1910..	82,880	63,301
1911..	86,454	71,390
1912..	96,221	81,340
1913..	124,990	95,209
1914..	86,071	120,921

8. There was no important change in taxation during the year.

9. On the 31st December, 1913, assets exceeded liabilities by £137,585 3*s*. 5*d*.; a year later this excess was £102,734 9*s*. 7*d*., a decrease of £34,850 13*s*. 10*d*., chiefly due to overdrafts at the bank and at the Crown Agents.

10. Investments in Government Securities amounted on the 31st December, 1914, to £120,276 13*s*. 5*d*., which also represents their cost price as compared with £98,613 18*s*. 10*d*. invested on the 31st December, 1913.

11. The West African coinage, introduced during 1913, is current in the Colony and Protectorate. Silver is legal to any amount. English coins are also in circulation as well as a number of five franc pieces, of which latter the exchange value is three shillings and tenpence halfpenny. The Bank of British West Africa, Limited, is the only one in the Colony. The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during 1913 was one per cent.

12. The Board of Health is the only Municipal Board in the Colony. It is composed of official and non-official members, the Senior Medical Officer being president.

13. The Board of Health derives its revenue from a five-per-cent. rate levied on property, annually assessed, in the town of Bathurst, from Market and Slaughter-house fees, a Government Grant-in-aid, and from miscellaneous receipts. In 1914 the revenue comprised, local rates £1,387 6*d*. 3*d*.; slaughter-house fees, £109 5*s*. 3*d*.; grant-in-aid, £2,327 0*s*. 0*d*.; and Miscellaneous receipts £57 15*s*. 11*d*., a total of £3,881 7*s*. 2*d*., as compared with £3,758 13*s*. 3*d*. in 1913.

14. The expenditure of the Board, including personal emoluments, scavenging, lighting, upkeep of horses and carts, etc., amounted to £3,419 10*s*. 11*d*., as against £2,778 6*s*. 7*d*. in 1913.

15. The revenue and expenditure of the Board of Health during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1910..	1,286	1,443
1911..	2,237	2,199
1912..	2,867	2,588
1913..	3,758	2,778
1914..	3,881	3,419

16. MacCarthy Square, situated in the centre of the town of Bathurst and used as a parade and general recreation ground, is under a Board similarly constituted as the Board of Health. The upkeep of the square is provided for by a grant—£125 in 1914—from the Government.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

17. *Trade.*—The trade of the Colony during the first seven months gave every promise of reaching a record. The sudden outbreak of hostilities in August caused a large drop in imports which continued during the remainder of the year and resulted in a serious reduction.

18. *Imports.*—The total value of all imports was £688,007 as compared with £1,091,129 in 1913.

Specie.—Bullion and specie were imported during 1914 to the value of £299,668, as against £471,835 in 1913.

19. The following is a table of the

CHIEF ARTICLES IMPORTED AND THE VALUE THEREOF DURING 1913–1914.

Article.	1913.	1914.
	£	£
Cotton Goods	201,797	72,416
Hardware	27,276	30,686
Kola Nuts	91,381	74,176
Rice	62,512	78,535
Spirits	17,141	4,993
Sugar	19,422	8,729
Salt	3,630	2,052
Soap	7,556	5,280
Tobacco	15 488	4,504
Wine	4,585	2,311

20. *Increases and Decreases.*—From the foregoing table it will be seen that there were increases under two heads only. One of these, hardware, has been increasing steadily during the last three years.

The numerous decreases are due largely to the reductions made in imports during the latter half of the year and to over-importation during 1913.

21. Excluding specie the percentages of imports from the various countries in 1913 and 1914 were as follows :—

	1913.	1914.
Great Britain	40·64	41·40
British Possessions	15·26	20·19
	55·90	61·59
France and French Possessions	27·55	21·63
Germany	10·25	11·58
Other Countries	6·30	5·20

22. The condition of the import trade during the last five years will be seen in the following table :—

Article.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie ..	208,544	384,784	285,223	471,835	299,668
Other articles	370,439	422,334	471,630	619,294	388,339
Total ..	578,983	807,118	756,853	1,091,129	688,007

23. The total value of all exports was £926,127, as compared with £867,187 in 1913.

Specie.—Specie to the value of £232,469 was exported; this was £27,688 more than in the previous year.

24. The following return gives the

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT AND THEIR VALUES IN 1913 AND 1914.

Article.		Quantity.		Value.	
		1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.
				£	£
Calabashes ..	packages	1,739	922	2,226	1,063
Ground-nuts ..	tons	67,404	66,885	622,098	650,461
Hides	No.	47,031	70,279	18,718	22,138
Ivory		1,268	110	54	17
Palm-kernels ..	tons	546	495	9,026	7,815
Rubber ..	lbs.	12,995	3,548	1,027	102
Wax	lbs.	31,518	1,513	990	473

25. *Increases.*—The only increase was in hides, all of which went to the United Kingdom with the exception of a small number—280—exported to France. The increase in ground-nuts is in value only.

26. *Decreases.*—The decreases under all heads, with the one exception of palm-kernels, are partly due to the war. They would have been greater had hostilities broken out at the beginning of the year when the greater part of the exports are shipped.

27. The condition of the ground-nut and palm-kernel trade during the last five years is shown in the following:—

RETURN SHOWING THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF GROUND-NUTS AND PALM-KERNELS EXPORTED DURING THE YEARS 1910 TO 1914.

Article.			1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Ground-nuts	Weight.	Tons.	58,456	47,931	64,169	67,404	66,885
	Value.	£	387,943	427,472	502,069	622,098	650,461
Palm-kernels	Weight.	Tons.	467	444	445	546	495
	Value.	£	5,640	4,758	6,518	9,026	7,815

28. The percentages of exports, excluding specie, in 1913 and 1914 were:—

	1913.	1914.
Great Britain and British Possessions ..	6·72	9·92
France and French Possessions	59·10	79·34
Holland	6·03	—
Germany	24·56	6·80
Other Countries	3·59	3·94

29. *Agriculture.*—The ground-nut continues to be the only article actively cultivated for exportation; there are no indications of any other crop being adopted in the Gambia to rival it.

30. The policy of supplying nuts for seed through the Government was continued.

31. Among other crops grown by native farmers are rice and koos, or millet. The quantities raised are not sufficient for local requirements, rice in considerable quantities has to be imported.

32. Land is granted in small areas. Leaseholds may be acquired. The rent for small lots suitable for trading stations ranges from about three pounds upwards. Freehold interests in Crown lands are not granted save in exceptional circumstances. No leases are issued in the first instance for more than twenty-one years.

33. *Shipping.*—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 520 with a total tonnage of 571,940 tons as compared with 583 and 625,132 tons in 1913.

34. The following returns give the

TONNAGE OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN VESSELS (*a*) ENTERED AND (*b*) CLEARED IN THE YEARS 1913 AND 1914.

(a) Tonnage of Vessels Entered.

Nationality.	1913.			1914.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ..	185,522	264	185,786	181,871	220	182,091
Foreign ..	123,694	3,311	127,005	100,616	2,523	103,139
TOTAL ..	309,216	3,575	312,791	282,487	2,743	285,230

(b) Tonnage of Vessels Cleared.

Nationality.	1913.			1914.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ..	185,399	234	185,633	184,076	229	184,305
Foreign ..	123,521	3,187	126,708	99,666	2,739	102,405
TOTAL ..	308,920	3,421	312,341	283,742	2,968	286,710

Total Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

British ..	370,921	498	371,419	365,947	449	366,396
Foreign ..	247,215	6,498	253,713	200,282	5,262	205,544
TOTAL ..	618,136	6,996	625,132	566,229	5,711	571,940

Of the total number of vessels entered and cleared at Bathurst during the year, 223 were British (40 sailing and 183 steam) and 297 foreign (88 sailing and 209 steam). The aggregate tonnage of British vessels was 160,852 tons more than that of foreign vessels. The excess in 1913 was 117,706 tons.

35. The following is a

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION, TONNAGE, AND NATIONALITY OF ALL VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED DURING 1913 AND 1914.

Nationality of Vessels.	1913.			1914.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ..	370,921	498	371,419	365,947	449	366,396
French ..	74,495	1,775	76,270	70,222	1,161	71,383
German ..	60,626	—	60,626	48,176	—	48,176
Russian ..	—	—	—	12,470	—	12,470
American ..	—	428	428	—	755	755
Norwegian .	20,426	—	20,426	22,008	—	22,008
Portuguese .	—	4,295	4,295	—	3,346	3,346
Danish ..	24,040	—	24,040	12,474	—	12,474
Swedish ..	11,740	—	11,740	10,762	—	10,762
Greek ..	33,278	—	33,278	22,322	—	22,322
Dutch ..	—	—	—	22	—	22
Spanish ..	2,736	—	2,736	—	—	—
Italian ..	18,460	—	18,460	1,816	—	1,816
Uruguayan .	1,414	—	1,414	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	618,136	6,996	625,132	566,219	5,711	571,940

36. A comparative statement showing the total quantity and value of, and revenue collected on, spirits during the last five years, is given in Appendix A.*

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. Sixteen Ordinances were passed during the year. The most important of these were :—

No. 6.—An Ordinance to Regulate Copyright.

No. 9.—An Ordinance to amend the law in relation to Perjury.

No. 11.—An Ordinance Further to Amend the Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish Preservation Ordinance 1901.

No. 12.—An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Construction and Interpretation of Ordinances and Notices, and to the proving thereof in evidence and to other like matters.

No. 16.—An Ordinance to prohibit Trading with the Enemy.

* p. 20.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Schools.

The Anglican school was founded by the Government in the early days of the settlement, and is maintained by the Church of England congregation. Others have been established by the Mohammedans, by the Roman Catholic and by the Wesleyan Missionary Societies. Each of these denominational schools is under a European superintendent. The Government does not maintain any schools, but contributes £150 per annum towards the salary of each superintendent. A grant is also made towards the salaries of the teachers in the Mohammedan School and the provision of prizes therein. Further Grants-in-aid are provided under the Education Ordinance and based on the average attendance of pupils and on the results of examinations held by the Government Inspector of Schools.

39. In Bathurst there are five affiliated schools, the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan bodies having two each, one for boys and one for girls, and the Anglican Church one. The numbers of pupils on the registers during 1914 were:—

Schools.	No.
Roman Catholic	413
Wesleyan	681
Anglican	215

There is another school belonging to the Wesleyan denomination, at MacCarthy Island, which had 100 pupils on the register.

40. The only secondary and technical education is provided by the Wesleyan Church, which has a non-affiliated secondary school and a technical and industrial school for boys in Bathurst. The latter school is in receipt of an annual grant of £300 from the Government and is examined once a year by a Government nominee.

41. The Mohammedan School, which had 100 pupils on the roll during the year, is managed by a Board of leading Mohammedans and is presided over by the Inspector of Schools. Elementary subjects in English and Arabic are taught and the Koran is studied. Thirty-four pupils were presented for examination during 1914 of whom only nine passed.

42. The total number of children attending the schools during the year was 1,512, as compared with 1,295 in 1913. The increase is due to the decline in trade, due to the war and consequent return to Bathurst of traders and trading clerks who would otherwise be with their families at small trading stations where there are no schools.

43. The subject of Elementary Hygiene and Sanitation is compulsory in Standards VI and VII of the schools. One pound and five shillings was provided by the Government for prizes to teachers who were successful in obtaining hygiene certificates.

44. The income of the affiliated schools during the year was £1,580 6*s*. 3*d*., as compared with £1,615 14*s*. 6*d*. in 1913. This income is derived from school fees, contributions by owners, and Government grants. The expenditure on buildings, repairs, school materials, salaries, and miscellaneous expenses equalled the revenue.

Industrial and Technical School.

45. This school, which is situated in Bathurst, had seventeen pupils on its books during the year; of these two were in the last year of their apprenticeship. The work includes masonry, carpentry and joinery, painting, glazing, and general blacksmithing. The school is a Wesleyan institution, but all the pupils do not belong to that denomination. The institution does useful work and deserves every support.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

46. There are two hospitals, one at Bathurst and one at MacCarthy Island. In the former there is accommodation for four first-class, eleven second-class, and ten third-class male patients. The ward for females has accommodation for seventeen patients, including two cots for children. Four rooms are provided for cases requiring isolation. The wards for males and females are in separate buildings.

47. A European medical officer is usually stationed at MacCarthy Island from October to June; during the remainder of the year, when there is only a small population on the island, a native dispenser is in charge of the hospital. There is one ward for Europeans and three wards for native patients. Fifty-one in-patients and 1,323 out-patients were treated during the year.

48. There is a building for contagious diseases about two miles from Bathurst. The Colony was free from any epidemic during the year. Smallpox appeared in some parts of the Colony and Protectorate.

49. The medical staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer and five other Medical Officers, one of whom is Medical Officer of Health at Bathurst. These are all members of the West African Medical Staff.

50. In addition to the Medical Officers the hospital staff includes four trained nurses (Europeans) and a number of native dispensers, dressers, and nurses.

51. During the year 556, compared with 554 in 1913, in-patients were treated in the Bathurst hospital. There were 55 deaths, of which one only was that of a European. Of these deaths 10 and 8 were due to diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems respectively. The total number of out-patients treated was 9,799, compared with 8,134 in 1913.

Home for Destitute and Afflicted Persons.

52. Fourteen males and five females were admitted to this institution during the year. The home also serves as a hospital for such cases as the Senior Medical Officer may consider would be more comfortably attended to than in the General Hospital.

Government Savings Bank.

53. At the end of the year there were 561 accounts, as against 501 in 1913, 470 in 1912, 456 in 1911, and 428 in 1910, in this institution, which is under the Receiver General. The balance remaining on deposit was £5,464 0*s*. 11*d*., as compared with £5,553 10*s*. 7*d*. in 1913. The balances at the end of the years 1912, 1911, and 1910 were £5,267 11*s*. 6*d*., £5,037 6*s*. 7*d*., and £5,261 15*s*. 10*d*., respectively. During the year the sum of £3,014 4*s*. 4*d*. was deposited, while £3,231 1*s*. 11*d*. was withdrawn. The interest payable was £129 1*s*. 1*d*.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

54. The Police Force consists of one Superintendent of Police, an Assistant Superintendent, both of whom are Europeans, and 88 non-commissioned officers and men.

One non-commissioned officer and six men are stationed in the Protectorate.

55. There were 133 prosecutions by the police during the year as against 175 in 1913.

Prisons.

56. There were 40 convicted prisoners remaining in Bathurst Gaol on the 1st January, 1914, and 124 were admitted during the year; 110 were discharged on, and 17 before, the expiration of their sentences. Five sentences were remitted. One prisoner escaped from lawful custody. On the 31st December, 31 prisoners remained in gaol. The 17 prisoners discharged before the expiration of their sentences were sentenced to imprisonment in default of payment of fines and debts. In each case full settlement was made before the prisoners were discharged. Two prisoners who bore exemplary characters while in gaol were released on licence. One prisoner who was sentenced to death had his sentence commuted to one of 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

57. The health of the prisoners remained satisfactory throughout the year. There was not a death among the prisoners.

58. The daily average number of prisoners during the last five years was as follows :—

1910	23·78
1911	26·24
1912	27·50
1913	35·74
1914	29·79

Criminal Statistics.

59. There were 27 cases tried in the Supreme Court as compared with 19 in 1913. Among the cases tried two were for murder, which resulted in a conviction for manslaughter in one case and murder in the other. In one charge of manslaughter a conviction was recorded. These and two other charges, one of returning within limits from which an order of banishment was issued and another of cattle stealing, all arose within the Protectorate.

60. Cases arising in the Colony and dealt with by the Court, included 13 charges of burglary and larceny, in which there were eight convictions, and one charge of demanding money with menaces. Four persons were charged with other offences against property, two convictions being recorded, and four persons, of whom three were convicted, were charged with miscellaneous offences.

The Colony and Protectorate continue to be somewhat remarkable for the small number of serious crimes committed.

61. In the Police Court 459 cases were disposed of. This is a small increase of two over the year 1913. A large number of these cases related to summonses taken out by the Board of Health under the Public Health Ordinance of 1912.

62. The total number of cases reported from the Protectorate was 267, which is a decrease of 332 on the previous year. This is accounted for by the returns for 1914 being incomplete as regards one province. There is an absence of cases of ordinary crimes coming before the native tribunals in the Protectorate.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

63. The last census of the Colony and Protectorate (1911) gave the former a population of 7,700 and the latter one of 138,401, a total number of 146,101 inhabitants. This has been increased by an annual influx of "strange farmers."

64. The numbers of births and deaths registered in each of those parts of the Colony to which the system of registration applies, together with the total number therein for the year, are shown in the following tables:—

Births—1914.

District.	Males.				Females.				Totals
	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	
Bathurst	—	130	1	4	—	135	3	1	274
British Kombo	—	7	—	—	—	2	—	—	9
Ceded Mile	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	4
MacCarthy Island	—	9	—	—	—	10	—	—	19
Total..	—	148	1	4	—	149	3	1	306

Deaths—1914.

District.	Males.				Females.				Totals
	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	White	Black	Mulatto	Asiatics	
Bathurst	1	173	2	4	—	115	1	1	297
British Kombo	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	8
Ceded Mile	—	7	—	—	—	6	—	—	13
MacCarthy Island	—	8	—	—	—	6	—	—	14
Total ..	1	192	2	4	—	131	1	1	332

65. The following is a

COMPARATIVE RETURN SHOWING THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN BATHURST, BRITISH KOMBO, THE CEDED MILE, AND MACCARTHY ISLAND DURING THE FIVE YEARS 1910–1914.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1910	363	385	22	—
1911	306	318	12	—
1912	303	336	33	—
1913	292	335	43	—
1914	306	342	36	—
				—

66. The death-rate in the Colony showed an increase, being 26·14 per 1,000 as against 21·42 in 1913. The increase may be attributed to the increased rainfall, which was double that of 1913, when the death-rate was the lowest recorded during the last ten years.

67. The number of Europeans, including females, residing in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was 149 including 56 officials. Eight Europeans including two officials were invalided to Europe. No European official died during the year.

68. Twenty-six marriages were registered during the year 1914. The number is the same as that for 1913, as against twenty in each of the two preceding years. Eight marriage licences were issued in 1914, as compared with ten in 1913, three in 1912, and eight in 1911.

69. There were 1,267 vaccinations performed at Bathurst and 921 in the Protectorate during the year.

70. The sanitation of Bathurst is attended to by the Board of Health, of which the Senior Medical Officer is chairman, and the Colonial Engineer and Superintendent of Police are ex-officio members. Six other members are appointed annually by the Governor. The valuable services of Dr. Kennan as Senior Sanitary Officer, which were shared with the Colony of Sierra Leone, were severed during the year as that officer, who did much to promote the sanitation of Bathurst, is now required to devote the whole of his attention to Sierra Leone. The officials of the Board of Health consist of a Town Warden, an Assistant Town Warden, an Inspector and four Assistant Inspectors of Nuisances, a Market Clerk, a Cemetery Keeper, a Groom, four Lamplighters and 40 labourers. The latter are increased to 60 during the rainy season.

71. In the Protectorate sanitation is attended to as far as possible by the Travelling Commissioners, who are guided by special Sanitary Instructions. Prizes are given to the cleanest village in each Province.

Climate.

72. During the rainy season, June to October, the climate of the Gambia is damp and oppressive and is more generally felt than in other places with heavier rainfalls owing to the difference to be found during the remaining months of the year, which comprise the dry season.

73. A Meteorological Station of the second class is maintained in Bathurst. The highest shade temperature recorded during the year was 101°, and the lowest 53°. The rainfall was 48·91 inches.

The following are

METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS FOR BATHURST AND MACCARTHY ISLAND RESPECTIVELY.

Bathurst.

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	Wind.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	General Directions.
January .	—	90	60	30	75·0	—	North-west.
February.	—	93	60	33	76·5	—	,,
March ..	—	101	60	41	80·5	—	,,
April ..	—	100	60	40	80·0	—	,,
May ..	—	95	62	33	78·5	—	Variable.
June ..	—	99	64	35	81·5	2·98	,,
July ..	—	90	68	22	79·0	3·76	,,
August ..	—	87	63	24	75·0	27·86	North-west.
September	—	90	63	27	76·5	11·34	,,
October ..	—	95	66	29	80·5	2·59	,,
November	—	90	60	30	75·0	·38	,,
December	—	86	53	33	69·5	—	,,
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	48·91	
Average	—	93·0	61·5	31·4	77·2	—	—

MacCarthy Island.

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	Wind.
	Minimum on Grass.	Shade maximum.	Shade minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	General Directions.
January .	—	98	60	38	79·0	0·30	North.
February.	—	105	65	40	85·0	—	,,
March ..	—	109	67	42	88·0	—	,,
April ..	—	113	70	43	91·5	—	,,
May ..	—	114	68	46	91·0	—	,,
June ..	—	109	—	—	—	2·62	,,
July ..	—	102	—	—	—	3·09	,,
August ..	—	96	—	—	—	14·23	,,
September	—	96	—	—	—	7·39	,,
October ..	—	99	—	—	—	2·01	,,
November	—	102	55	47	78·5	0·80	,,
December.	—	98	50	48	74·0	—	,,
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	30·44	—
Average	—	103·5	62·1	43·4	83·8	—	—

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal.

74. The fortnightly mail service between Liverpool and Bathurst improved as regards the outward mails. The homeward continued to be irregular, sixteen steamers, out of a total of twenty-one, being behind time. Additional mails are occasionally forwarded to England via Dakar, and to a few Continental ports by trading steamers.

75. Internal communication is maintained by a Government steamer and by vessels and launches belonging to the principal trading firms, which carry passengers and freight. During the trading season communication is frequent.

76. During the year a petition was received praying that the number of post offices, of which there are two, established at Bathurst and MacCarthy Island respectively, be increased. The matter was under consideration, but the outbreak of the war and the resultant decrease of revenue prevented any extension of postal facilities.

77. The following general return shows the volume of business transacted during the last five years :—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Total Number of Letters Parcels, &c., dealt with.	Total Value of Money and Postal Orders issued and paid.
	£	£		£
1910	1,624	864	124,835	6,053
1911	1,811	818	128,265	14,386
1912	*4,624	995	135,269	16,211
1913	1,715	844	157,324	20,947
1914	1,376	754	129,951	19,732

* New issue of Postage stamps.

The falling off in revenue was chiefly due to the falling off in the sale of stamps, which realized £761 9*s.* 0*d.* during the first half of the year, as against £281 4*s.* 10*d.* during the second half, to dealers abroad.

78. The "Cash on Delivery" service is provided for.

Telegraph and Telephone Services.

79. The only telegraph station in the Colony is one belonging to the African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, in Bathurst. The ordinary rate to the United Kingdom is three shillings and twopence per word. Deferred cables, at half rate, may be despatched.

80. There is no inland telegraph. Most Government Offices, some official quarters, the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Government House at Cape St. Mary are connected by telephone.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

81. No public works of importance were completed during the year. The construction of Denton Bridge, at Oyster Creek, was proceeded with, as was the scheme for providing Bathurst with a pipe-borne water supply from Lamin. The survey of the River Gambia was discontinued. The sanitation of Bathurst was improved by the continued vigilance of the Board of Health.

82. The principal events during the year were the departure early in the year of Sir Henry Galway, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., on promotion to the Governorship of South Australia, and the arrival of his successor, E. J. Cameron, Esquire, C.M.G. Sir Henry Galway's departure was viewed with regret by the community.

W. T. CAMPBELL,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
14th April, 1915

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL QUALITY AND VALUE OF, AND REVENUE COLLECTED ON, SPIRITS DURING THE YEARS 1910 TO 1914.

Year.	Quantity in *gallons.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from Duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanation.
			£	£		
1910	48,500	—	7,129	8,183	From 24th April 1906, 4*s*. 2*d*. the imperial gallon, or part thereof, upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength, of greater strength, 1*d*. per degree. Provided in the case of spirit other than Whisky and Brandy under standard strength, an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d*. for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 30 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 1·23 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1911	62,727	—	8,512	10,518	Do.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 1·05 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1912	72,158	—	10,960	11,887	Do.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 1·44 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1913	114,279	—	17,364	18,131	Do.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 1·56 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1914	26,780	11,471	4,991	4,823	Do	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 0·72 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.

* The quantity shown is that actually taken into consumption in each year.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE GAMBIA BLUE-BOOK REPORT 1914.

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute for the Colony of the Gambia during 1914.

Economic Investigations.

No samples of economic products were received for examination from the Gambia in 1914. During the year, however, the Technical Information Bureau of the Imperial Institute took action with a view to finding fresh markets for certain products from British West Africa, the disposal of which had been interfered with by the outbreak of the war, and two of the products dealt with, viz., ground-nuts and palm-kernels, are largely represented in the export trade of the Gambia.

In view of their commercial importance in West Africa generally, palm-kernels were first dealt with. Hitherto these kernels had been chiefly exported from British West Africa to Germany, there to be worked up into oil and feeding-cake, and large quantities of the oil were subsequently shipped to England. There was, however, no reason why this industry should not be transferred to such great oil-seed crushing centres as Hull and Liverpool, and the question was brought to the notice of British firms by the publication of full information on the subject in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1914) and by the issue of a circular to oil-seed crushers. As a result the kernels are now being treated on a large scale by oil-seed crushers in the United Kingdom, and a future market for them, independent of Germany, appears to be assured.

Similar action was also taken by the Bureau with reference to ground-nuts, which form the chief export from the Gambia. A circular on "New Markets for Indian and Colonial Ground-Nuts and their Products," for distribution to oil-seed crushers, was in preparation at the close of the year.

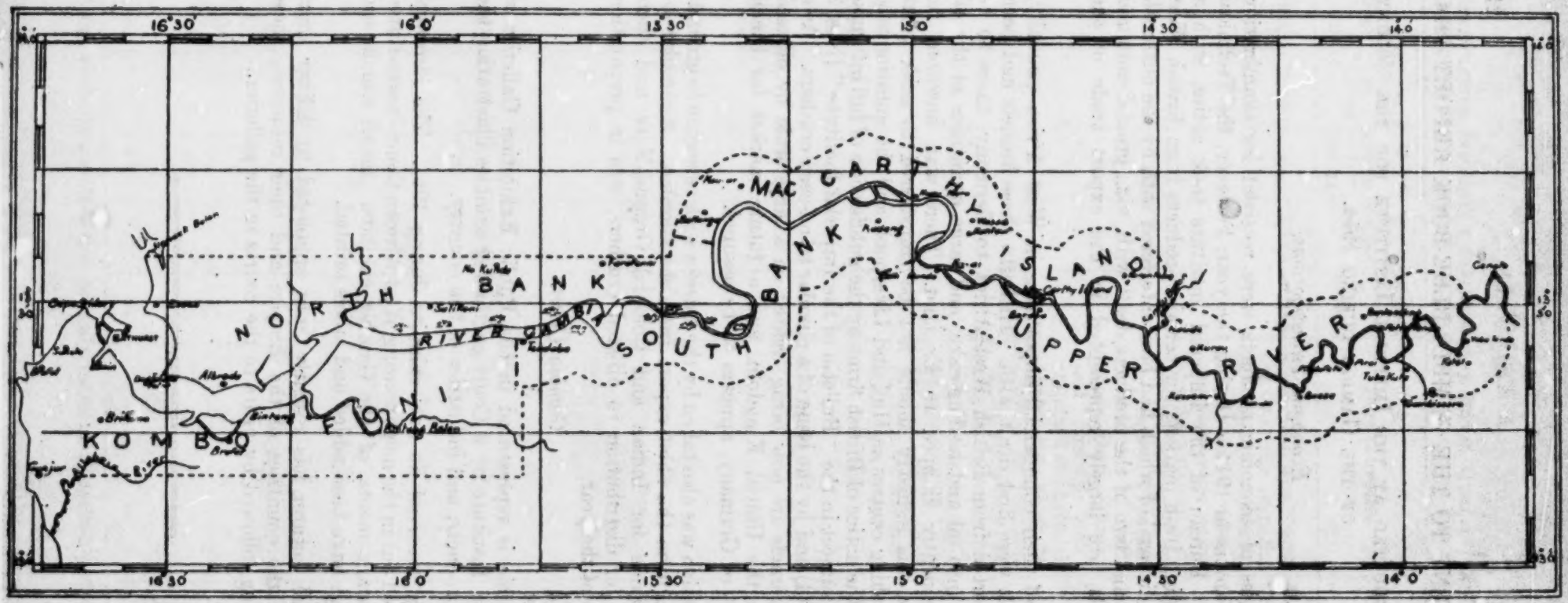
Gambia Court.

The Gambia is represented in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute by a Court containing exhibits illustrating the resources, products, and industries of the country.

The Court received no new exhibits during 1914. The improvements carried out in the neighbouring West African Courts necessitated certain rearrangements of the Gambia exhibits. Small stands and other fittings have been added and labels printed.

An official lecturer has recently been appointed to deliver short lectures on the countries of the Empire and their resources, these lectures being followed by visits to the courts in the galleries.

GAMBIA.



— Scale 20 miles to One Inch —

Miles 20 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 Miles

Reference

Anglo-French Boundary shewn .....

Provinces — · — — · — — · — · — — · —

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
826	Mauritius	1913
827	British Honduras	"
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	"
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	"
841	Leeward Islands	"
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
845	Weihaiwei	"
846	Seychelles	"
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	1914
859	Gold Coast	"
860	Jamaica	1914–1915

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–3 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 890.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 861.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1916.

LONDON:
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A SKETCH MAP will be found in the last Report, No. 861: [Cd.7622—52].

No. 890.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 861.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia.
14th July, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1915, together with a Report thereon which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. T. Campbell.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD J. CAMERON.
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street, London.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Bathurst, Gambia,
23rd June, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1915, together with my Report thereon.

I regret the delay in the completion of the Blue Book, due, as already explained to your Excellency, to some Departments being dilatory in furnishing their Returns and to some of the latter having been incomplete and incorrect when first received. A further delay has been unavoidable, owing to pressure of work in the Secretariat causing delay in typing.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. T. CAMPBELL,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir Edward J. Cameron, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
The Gambia.

(C283) Wt.45316/1003. 1,000 & 90. 9.16. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1915.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue for the year was £92,252 10*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with £124,995 0*s.* 5*d.* in 1913, and £86,070 12*s.* 7*d.* in 1914.

2. The estimated Revenue for the year 1915 was £65,918 0*s.* 0*d.*, which was £26,334 10*s.* 6*d.* less than was collected.

3. The principal increases were in (1) Customs and (2) Protectorate. They are accounted for by (1) the increased import duties, those on kola nuts and tobacco being £2,220 and £2,983 respectively, and in the export duty on ground-nuts. When the Estimates for the year were framed the market for ground-nuts was most uncertain, and it was not expected that more than one-half of the crop would be exported; most of the large crop of 1914 was, however, also shipped, with the result that the revenue from this source, £32,060, was larger than it ever was before; (2) the larger influx of "strange farmers" into the Protectorate in 1914, causing increases in the Revenue derived from Hut Taxes and Farm Rents collected in 1915. The receipts under these heads were £7,616 in 1911, since when they have regularly increased until they reached £14,553 in 1915.

4. Reduced activity on the part of Continental stamp dealers, the realization of certain investments, and the discontinuance of the sale of public lands account for the principal decreases which were met with under the heads Post Office, Interest, and Land Sales.

5. *Expenditure.*—The total expenditure for the year was £89,028 0*s.* 2*d.*, a reduction of £31,893 6*s.* 3*d.* on that of 1914. The estimated expenditure was £92,654 0*s.* 0*d.*, or £3,625 19*s.* 10*d.* more than was actually incurred. Ordinary expenditure was £69,089 19*s.* 8*d.*, and extraordinary expenditure £19,938 0*s.* 6*d.*

6. The following is a

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1911–1915.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1911..	86,454	71,390
1912..	96,221	81,340
1913..	124,990	95,209
1914..	86,071	120,921
1915..	92,253	89,028

7. There was no important change in taxation during the year.

8. The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1914, was £102,734 9*s.* 7*d.*, and on the 31st December, 1915, it amounted to £105,958 19*s.* 11*d.*, the difference being the excess of revenue over expenditure during 1915.

9. Investments in Government Securities on the 31st December, 1914, amounted to £120,276 13*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with £92,552 16*s.* 9*d.* on the 31st December, 1915, during which year investments were realized to the extent of £28,439 6*s.* 11*d.*

10. The Board of Health is the only Municipal Board in the Colony. It is composed of official and non-official members, presided over by the Senior Medical Officer.

11. The revenue of the Board of Health is derived from a five per cent. rate levied on property, assessed annually, in the town of Bathurst, from market and slaughter-house fees, a Government Grant-in-aid, and from miscellaneous receipts. In 1915 the revenue comprised, local rates, £1,394 18*s.* 6*d.*; slaughter-house fees, £122 13*s.* 9*d.*; grant-in-aid, £3,717 19*s.* 4*d.*; and miscellaneous receipts, £47 4*s.* 5*d.*, a total of £5,335 14*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with £3,881 7*s.* 2*d.* in 1914.

12. The expenditure of the Board, including personal emoluments, scavenging, lighting, upkeep of horses and carts, &c., amounted to £3,776 15*s.* 5*d.*, as against £3,419 10*s.* 11*d.* in 1914.

13. The revenue of the Board of Health increased from £2,237 in 1911 to £5,336 in 1915, and the expenditure from £2,199 to £3,777.

14. A Board, similarly constituted as the Board of Health, controls MacCarthy Square, which is situated in the centre of the town and used as a parade and general recreation ground. The upkeep of the square is provided for by a grant, £125 in 1915, from the Government.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

15. *Trade.*—The decline in the trade of the colony experienced during the latter half of 1914 continued during most of the year 1915. This is accounted for by (1) The poor prices paid for groundnuts, causing a reduction in the purchasing power of the natives, and (2) The generally adverse conditions affecting trade brought about by the War.

16. *Imports.*—The total value of all imports was £521,151, as compared with £688,007 in 1914.

Specie.—Specie to the value of £218,656 was imported, as against £299,668 in 1914.

17. *Increases and decreases.*—Two items of import only—tobacco, £7,000, and wine, £700—showed an increase. The increase in tobacco was due to larger importations, mostly from the United States of America, towards the end of the year, made in anticipation of an advance in the Customs Tariff as stated above. The principal decreases were (1) Cotton goods, £9,109—this drop was bound to follow the general reduction in trade; (2) Hardware, £25,925—this considerable reduction was owing to the figures for previous years being increased on account of large importations of ironware for the active prosecution of various public works; (3) Kola nuts, £14,000—the quantity of these nuts imported was greater than in 1914, but, owing to larger shipments towards the close of the year, there was a fall in their market value; (4) Rice, £51,420; this great increase is accounted for to some extent by the good crops of locally grown rice and other food stuffs; (5) Sugar, £5,872; this reduction is no doubt largely due to the increased cost necessitating economy in consumption.

18. The percentage of imports, excluding specie, from the British Empire was 74 per cent., as against 61 per cent. in 1914; from France, 18 per cent., as against 21; and from Germany, nil, as against 11 per cent.

19. The following table shows the condition of the import trade during the last five years:—

Article.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie ..	384,784	285,223	471,835	299,668	218,656
Other articles	422,334	471,630	619,294	388,339	302,495
Total ..	807,118	756,853	1,091,129	688,007	521,151

20. *Exports.*—The total value of all exports was £595,797, as compared with £926,127 in 1914.

Specie.—Specie to the value of £165,177, £67,292 less than in 1914, was exported.

21. The following is a return of the

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT AND THEIR VALUES IN 1914 AND 1915.

Article.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
			£	£
Calabashes .. packages	922	—	1,063	472
Ground-nuts .. tons	66,885	96,152	650,461	400,435
Hides .. .. No.	70,279	40,647	22,138	11,911
Ivory .. .. lbs.	110	97	17	10
Palm-kernels .. tons	495	326	7,815	5,457
Rubber .. lbs.	3,548	1,171	102	31
Wax .. .. lbs.	1,513	9,563	473	311

22. *Increases.*—The only article showing an increase in quantity is ground-nuts, the increase being 29,267 tons. The shipment of 96,152 tons during the year establishes a record in the history of the Gambia, and had the good prices of 1913 and 1914—£9 4*s.* 0*d.* and £10 0*s.* 0*d.* per ton, respectively—been maintained, the value of this export would have approached £1,000,000. Sp cial features of the year's export of ground-nuts were the large shi ments to the United Kingdom, Holland, and Spain, while France only took about one-half the quantity exported instead of the usual 80 per cent.

23. *Decreases.*—These, as regards value, prevailed under all heads. The decrease under one item, ground-nuts, a.nounted to the considerable total of £250,026. Among the other exports hides show a decrease of over £10,000 and palm-kernels one of more than £2,300. The continued regular decrease in rubber, wax, and ivory points to these commodities as likely to disappear from among the list of exports.

24. The position of the ground-nut and palm-kernel industries will be seen from the

RETURN SHOWING THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF GROUND-NUTS AND PALM-KERNELS EXPORTED DURING THE YEARS 1911 TO 1915.

Article.		1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Ground-nuts	Weight. Tons.	47,931	64,169	67,704	66,885	96,152
	Value. £	437,472	502,609	622,098	650,461	400,435
Palm-kernels	Weight. Tons.	444	445	546	495	326
	Value. £	4,758	6,518	9,026	7,815	5,457

25. The percentages of exports (exclusive of specie) to all countries in 1914 and 1915 were :—

	1914.	1915.
United Kingdom	9·40	38·86
British Possessions	0·52	0·59
Belgium	1·55	—
Denmark	1·99	7·68
France	78·08	46·68
French Possessions	1·26	1·92
Germany	6·80	—
Portuguese Possessions	0·03	—
Spain	0·35	4·24
Other Countries	0·02	0·03

The unusual shipments of nuts to the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Spain, referred to above account for the increases in the percentages credited to these three countries.

26. *Agriculture.*—The only article actively cultivated for export continues to be the ground-nut, which is likely to remain so until some other commodity more easily grown and of equal profit to the local cultivator is discovered.

27. A quantity of seed-nuts were supplied throughout the Protectorate by the Government.

28. Rice and koos, a species of millet, are the other principal crops grown by the natives. The quantities grown are not more than sufficient for local consumption. Considerable quantities of rice are imported.

29. Small areas of land are granted. Leasehold may be acquired. Rents for small lots suitable for trading stations range from about three pounds, upwards, according to the area taken up. The freehold of Crown Lands is not granted, save in exceptional circumstances. Leases are not issued in the first instance for more than twenty-one years.

30. *Shipping.*—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 482, with an aggregate tonnage of 530,624 tons, a decrease of 38 vessels and 41,316 tons as compared with 1914.

Compared with the year 1914 British show a decrease while foreign ships show an increase. The shortage of British tonnage, partly met by the employment of foreign vessels, is due to conditions arising out of the war.

30A. Of the total number of vessels entered and cleared at Bathurst during the year, 196 were British (39 sailing and 157 steam) and 286 foreign (67 sailing and 219 steam). The aggregate tonnage of British vessels was 104,174 tons more than that of foreign vessels. The British tonnage was 317,000 tons against 366,000, and the French tonnage 96,000 against 71,000.

31. A comparative statement, showing the total quantity and value of the revenue collected on spirits during the last five years is given in Appendix A.

III.—LEGISLATION.

32. Twenty-four Ordinances were passed during the year. The most important were :—

No. 12.—An Ordinance providing for the Recognition by the Courts of the Colony and Protectorate of Affidavits and other documents sworn before British Diplomatic and Consular Officers.

No. 15.—An Ordinance to provide for the Regulation and Control of the Supply of Pipe-borne water to the town of Bathurst and its environs.

No. 19.—An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to the issue of Passports.

No. 29.—An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law relating to the Customs Tariff.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Schools.

33. There are four schools in the Colony. One, founded in the early days of the Settlement by the Government, is maintained by the Church of England, the others were established by the Roman Catholic and the Wesleyan Missionary Societies and by the Mohammedans. Each of the first three denominational schools is under a European superintendent. The Government does not maintain any school, but contributes £150 per annum towards the salary of each superintendent. A grant is also made towards the salaries of the teachers in the Mohammedan School and the provision of prizes therein. Under the Education Ordinance further Grants-in-aid are provided. These are based on the average attendance of pupils and on the results of examinations held by the Government Inspector of Schools.

34. In Bathurst there are five affiliated schools, the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan bodies having two each, one for boys and one for girls, and the Anglican Church has one. During 1915 the numbers of pupils on the registers were :—Anglican, 263 ; Roman Catholic, 414 ; and Wesleyan, 606. Two other schools belonging to the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic denominations, situated at MacCarthy Island, had 87 and 50 pupils respectively on their registers.

35. The only secondary and technical education is provided by the Wesleyan Church, which has a non-affiliated secondary school and a technical and industrial school for boys in Bathurst. The latter school is in receipt of an annual grant of £300 from the Government, and is examined once a year by a Government nominee.

36. The Mohammedan School, managed by a Board of leading Mohammedans, presided over by the Inspector of Schools, had 91 pupils on the roll during the year. Elementary subjects in English and Arabic are taught, and the Koran is studied. Twenty-eight pupils were presented for examination during 1915, of whom only fifteen passed.

37. The total number of children on the rolls of the schools in 1915 was 1,509, as compared with 1,512 in 1914.

38. The subject of Elementary Hygiene and Sanitation is compulsory in Standards VI and VII of the schools. The Government gives monetary prizes to teachers successful in gaining hygiene certificates.

39. The total income of the affiliated schools and the Mohammedan school during the year was £4,115 10*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £1,753 13*s.* 10*d.* in 1914. This income is derived from school fees, contributions by owners, and Government grants. The expenditure on buildings, repairs, school materials, salaries, and miscellaneous expenses equalled the revenue.

Industrial and Technical School.

40. Seventeen pupils attended this school, situated in Bathurst, during the year; of these five were in the last year of their apprenticeship. This is a Wesleyan institution, but pupils of other denominations are admitted. Useful work, including masonry, carpentry, joinery, painting, glazing, and general blacksmithing, is performed. This school is deserving of support.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

41. There are two hospitals, one of which is at Bathurst and the other at MacCarthy Island. In the former there is accommodation for four first-class, ten second-class, and nine third-class patients. The ward for female patients has accommodation for seventeen patients, including two cots for children. Four rooms are provided for cases requiring isolation. The wards for male and female patients are in separate buildings.

42. The hospital at MacCarthy Island is under a native dispenser. It contains one ward for Europeans and three for native patients.

43. A building situated about two miles from Bathurst is used for contagious diseases. The Colony was free from any epidemic during the year. Small-pox was prevalent in parts of the Protectorate.

44. The medical staff consisted of a Senior Medical Officer and six other medical officers, one of whom is Medical Officer of Health at Bathurst. All are members of the West African Medical Staff. During the year three medical officers were at various times lent for war services.

45. In addition to the Medical Officers the hospital staff included six trained nursing sisters (Europeans)—four of whom were employed on active service in the Cameroons—and a number of native dispensers, dressers, and nurses.

46. During the year 488 in-patients were treated in the Bathurst hospital, as against 556 during 1914. There were 38 deaths.

The total number of out-patients treated was 8,304, compared with 9,799 in 1914.

Home for Destitute and Afflicted Persons.

47. Eight males and six females were admitted to this institution during the year. The home also serves as a hospital for such cases as the Senior Medical Officer may consider would be more comfortably attended to than in the General Hospital.

Government Savings Bank.

48. The number of accounts open rose steadily from 470 in 1911 to 733 in 1915, and the amount at their credit from £5,037 to £5,471.

The figures for 1915 include transactions at the MacCarthy Island branch from the 1st February. During the year the sum of £3,704 19*s.* 3*d.* was deposited, and £3,826 3*s.* 6*d.* was withdrawn. The interest payable was £130 0*s.* 4*d.*

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

49. The Police Force consists of 92 non-commissioned officers and men under a superintendent and an assistant superintendent, both of whom are Europeans. One non-commissioned officer and five men are stationed at MacCarthy Island.

50. There were 141 prosecutions by the police during the year, as against 133 in 1914.

Prisons.

51. On the 1st January there were 31 prisoners remaining in Bathurst Gaol, and 171 were admitted during the year. 155 prisoners were discharged on, and 13 before, the expiration of their sentences, while one was discharged by order, one discharged on licence, and two died. Thirty prisoners remained in gaol on the 31st December. The thirteen discharged before the expiration of their sentences were sentenced in default of payments of fines and debts. In each case full settlement was made before discharge. The prisoner discharged by order of the Governor came from the Protectorate, and the convict's licence was granted to a prisoner undergoing three years' imprisonment with hard labour who had borne an exemplary character during his confinement.

52. The health of the prisoners was satisfactory. There were two deaths, one, in the Colonial Hospital, was from dysentery and ankylostomiasis, and the other was due to cirrhosis of the liver. A coroner's inquest was held in each instance.

53. The daily average number of prisoners during the last five years was as follows:—In 1911 26, 1912 27, 1913 36, 1914 30, 1915 34. The increase in 1915, as compared with the year 1914, was due to a larger number of prisoners being sent during the year from the Protectorate to Bathurst Gaol to undergo short terms of imprisonment.

Criminal Statistics.

54. There were only 13 cases, as against 27 in 1914, tried in the Supreme Court, resulting in 10 convictions, of which 7 were for larceny and shop-stealing, and the remainder for embezzlement, forgery, and other offences against property.

55. The total number of cases tried during the year in the Supreme Court, which comprises within its jurisdiction the whole of the Colony and of the Protectorate, testifies as to the absence of serious crime in the Gambia.

56. Five hundred and seventy-four persons were summarily convicted in the Police Court. This increase of 115 over the number in 1914 is due to an increase in prosecutions under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance of 1912, more especially to that portion of it dealing with mosquito larvæ, under which there were no less than 369 prosecutions.

57. During the year, 336 cases were reported from the Protectorate, an increase of 69 over the number reported in 1914. The cases consisted chiefly of various offences under the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913, and again showed an absence of serious crime in the Protectorate, and testifies to the efficiency of the Travelling Commissioners in the various Provinces.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

58. The last census taken in the Colony and Protectorate gives a total population of 146,101. The population is subjected annually to a more or less temporary increase owing to the influx of "strange farmers" to the Protectorate.

59. The following is a

COMPARATIVE RETURN SHOWING THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN BATHURST, BRITISH KOMBO, THE CEDED MILE, AND MACCARTHY ISLAND DURING THE FIVE YEARS 1911–1915.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1911	306	318	12	—
1912	303	336	33	—
1913	292	335	43	—
1914	306	342	36	—
1915	279	296	17	—

60. The death-rate in the Colony showed a decrease, being 35·4 per 1,000, as against 39·8 in 1914.

61. The number of Europeans, including females, residing in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was 128, including 44 officials. No Europeans were invalided. No death occurred among the European residents.

62. Twenty-seven marriages were registered during the year 1915. The number is one more than that for 1914. Five marriage licences were issued in 1915, as compared with eight in 1914, ten in 1913, three in 1912, and eight in 1911.

63. There were 660 vaccinations performed in Bathurst and 2,057 in the Protectorate during the year.

64. The sanitation of Bathurst is attended to by the Board of Health, of which the Senior Medical Officer is chairman and the Colonial Engineer and Superintendent of Police are *ex-officio* members. The remaining six members are appointed annually by the Governor. The officials of the Board consist of a town warden, an assistant town warden, five inspectors of nuisances, a market clerk, a cemetery keeper, a groom, four lamp-lighters, and forty labourers, the latter being increased to sixty during the rains.

65. In the Protectorate sanitation is attended to, as far as possible, by the Travelling Commissioners, who are guided by special Sanitary Instructions. Prizes are given to the cleanest village in each Province.

66. The climate of the Gambia is damp and oppressive during the rainy season, June to October, and is more generally trying than in other places with a greater rainfall, owing to the extremes, both as regards temperature and moisture, experienced during the two seasons.

67. A Meteorological Station of the second class is maintained in Bathurst. During 1915 the highest shade temperature recorded was 100 degrees, and the lowest, 53 degrees. The rainfall was 47·64 inches. The average of the monthly maxima was 92·7, and of the minima 60·9 at Bathurst. At MacCarthy Island the corresponding figures were 104·5 and 82·0.

VIII.—POSTAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal.

68. The irregularity in the mail service between Liverpool and Bathurst was not lessened by the War. The increased number of steamers carrying ground-nuts to the United Kingdom afforded additional opportunities for despatching mails thereto direct. Frequent communication with Europe *viâ* Dakar (French Senegal) was possible owing to more steamers going to that port from Bathurst.

69. There are only two Post Offices established, at Bathurst and MacCarthy Island respectively, in the Colony. Mails for MacCarthy Island and the Protectorate are conveyed in a Government steamer and in vessels and launches belonging to trading firms. This mail service is frequent during the trading season.

70. The volume of business transacted in the Postal Department during the last five years is shown in the following general return:—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Total Number of Letters, Parcels, &c., dealt with.	Total Value of Money and Postal Orders issued and paid.
	£	£		£
1911	1,811	818	128,265	14,386
1912	*4,624	995	135,269	16,211
1913	1,715	844	157,324	20,947
1914	1,376	754	129,951	19,732
1915	889	887	147,688	15,759

* New issue of Postage stamps.

The decrease in the receipts was due to the small sale of stamps to foreign dealers.

71. The "cash on delivery" system was introduced in 1908.

72. The African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, maintains the only cable telegraph station in the Colony. The ordinary rate for messages to the United Kingdom is three shillings and two pence per word. Deferred cables at half rates may be despatched.

73. There is no inland telegraph. A limited telephone service is maintained between Government offices, some official quarters, the bank and shipping office. Government House at Cape St. Mary is connected by telephone.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

75. The Denton Bridge, named after a former Governor, Sir George Denton, with whom it originated, was completed during the year at a total cost of £19,864 6*s.* 11*d.* This useful and substantial work bridges Oyster Creek, the greatest obstacle on the road to Cape St. Mary, and forms the principal link between the latter and Bathurst. The widening of the two other short bridges on the road and the laying of a light railway would, if carried out, as projected for a number of years, materially assist toward benefiting the health of the European community in Bathurst by enabling it to utilize Cape St. Mary as a residential quarter. Beyond the completion of the Denton Bridge and some progress being made with the scheme for a pipe-borne water supply for Bathurst, no other public work of any magnitude was carried out during the year.

W. T. CAMPBELL,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia.
21st June, 1916.

APPENDIX A.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL QUANTITY AND VALUE OF, AND REVENUE COLLECTED ON, SPIRITS DURING THE YEARS 1911 TO 1915.

Year.	Quantity in *gallons.	Imports in gallons at 100° Tralles.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from Duties.	Duty chargeable imported.	Explanation.
			£	£		
1911	62,727	—	8,512	10,518	From 24th April, 1908, 4*s.* 2*d.* the imperial gallon, or part thereof, upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength, of greater strength, 1*d.* per degree. Provided in the case of spirit other than whisky and brandy under standard strength, an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 30 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 1·05 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1912	72,158	—	10,960	11,887	Do.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 1·44 per cent. of whole trade including specie.
1913	114,279	—	17,064	18,131	Do.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 1·56 per cent. of whole trade including specie.
1914	26,780	11,471	4,991	4,823	Do.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 0·72 per cent. of whole trade including specie.
1915	16,547	7,441	4,104	3,814	From 1st April, 1915, 5*s.* 6*d.* per imperial gallon, or part thereof, of standard strength; of strength greater than standard strength for every degree, or part thereof, an additional 1½*d.* Provided in the case of spirits, except whisky and brandy under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the value of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 26 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of Spirit Imports amounted to 0·79 per cent. of whole trade including specie.

*The quantity shown is that actually taken into consumption in each year.

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute for the Colony of the Gambia during 1915.

Economic Investigations.

No samples of economic products for examination were received at the Imperial Institute from the Gambia in 1915. The work of the Technical Information Bureau has, however, been continued on the lines indicated last year, and the following particulars of its activities during 1915 with regard to Gambia products may be given.

A circular on "New Markets for British Indian and Colonial Ground-nuts and their Products" was issued early in the year, and was widely distributed amongst oil-seed crushers, merchants, and others in the United Kingdom. Ground-nuts had not been previously crushed to any extent in the United Kingdom, but as the result of the publication of this circular considerable interest was aroused in the subject, and several British firms are now regularly crushing the nuts. It is understood that in this connection representatives of British firms visited the Gambia for the purpose of purchasing supplies of ground-nuts.

General information relating to the Gambia and its resources was also furnished by the Bureau in reply to enquiries.

Publications.

The following articles on the products of the Gambia or of special interest in the Colony were published in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" for 1915 (Volume XIII):—

The possibilities of Sericiculture in British Colonies and Dependencies.

The War and the World's Cotton Crops.
The Feeding Value of Palm Kernel Cake.
Piassava Industry of British West Africa.
Cassava: its Cultivation and Utilisation.
Ground-nuts.

Later in the year a monograph on "Oil Seeds and Feeding Cakes' was issued by the Imperial Institute and published by Mr. John Murray. The book deals fully with ground nuts, palm kernels, and other oil seeds, and was issued with a view to extending the utilisation in the United Kingdom of these seeds as sources of oil and feeding cake. The book has already had a large circulation.

Gambia Court.

Gambia is represented in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute by a Court containing exhibits illustrating the resources and industries of the country.

The Court has received no new exhibits during 1915. The cases have been renovated and new labels added.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
856	Hong Kong	1914
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	,,
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	,,
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
864	Ashanti	,,
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	,,
867	Somaliland	,,
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
871	Barbados	,,
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	,,
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	,,
881	East Africa Protectorate	,,
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	,,
887	Fiji	,,
888	Sierra Leone	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1916

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No. 936.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 890.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1917.

LONDON:
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A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861: [Cd.7622—52].

D. of D.
JAN 19 1918

No. 936.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 890.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia.
31st August, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia for the year 1916, together with a Report upon it by the Acting-Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. St. J. Jackson.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD J. CAMERON.
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Bathurst, Gambia,
29th August, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1916, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
E. St. J. JACKSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir Edward J. Cameron, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
The Gambia.

(C406) Wt.47019/1099. 1,000 & 90. 11.17. P.&F Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue collected in 1916 amounted to £103,075, and exceeded that for 1915 by £10,822. Only in one previous year, 1913, has this total been surpassed.

The principal heads under which the revenue falls are :—

	£
(1) Customs duties	75,417
(2) Licences, &c., ...	2,095
(3) Fees of Court, &c., ...	4,118
(4) Rent of Government property, excluding rent of land in the Protectorate	577
(5) Interest on Investments	3,593
(6) Protectorate	12,178

It will be seen that the Customs revenue provided nearly three-quarters of the total revenue for the year.

The amount received from this source exceeded that collected in 1915 by £9,824, so that the difference between the total revenue for the last two years is to be accounted for chiefly in this way.

It is to be remarked that the increase in Customs revenue was obtained notwithstanding that the export duty on groundnuts, which is the only export duty payable and was expected to produce nearly one-third of the total Customs Revenue, fell below the estimate by nearly £9,000, and below the amount received in 1915 by £17,000.

This difference is due to the fact that the total quantity of nuts exported in 1916, which included the whole crop, was less than half the export of the previous year, in which the crop was the largest recorded.

The only other source from which the revenue fell below that of the previous year to any important extent was the sixth of the principal sources mentioned above, the Protectorate. The decrease of £2,375 under this head is intimately connected with the size of the groundnut crop, since it is to be attributed entirely to the smaller number of immigrant planters who came over the borders from French territory to plant nuts in the Protectorate during the year, and to the consequent decrease in the taxes paid by them or by their landlords on their account.

There was also a slight decline in receipts from Port Dues, £343, as fewer ships were required than in the previous year to export the smaller groundnut crop.

The decrease of £19,778 under these three heads, Export, Protectorate, and Port Dues, is outweighed by an increase of £26,806 in the amount of import duties, and by smaller gains from each of the principal sources of revenue, making up the total excess over the revenue for 1915 of £10,822.

The increase of import duties was derived chiefly from goods upon which an ad valorem duty is paid. The figures for 1915 and 1916 were respectively £6,273 and £19,290, representing an increase of £13,017. This gain is due partly to the general rise of prices consequent

upon the War, and partly to the provisions of the Customs Tariff (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1915, which came into operation on the last day of that year and raised the ad valerem duty from 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent. on all goods, with the exception of foodstuffs, jewellery, and perfumery, which had previously paid duty on that basis. On foodstuffs the duty remains at 5 per cent. and on jewellery and perfumery it was raised to 10 per cent.

Other articles which contributed to an important extent to the general rise of the revenue from Import duties were kola nuts, on which £18,010 was paid in 1916, and £12,219 in 1915, tobacco, on which £9,829 was paid in 1916, and £5,982 in the previous year, and spirits, on which £5,826 was paid, as compared with £3,806 in 1915.

The duty on tobacco was raised by 50 per cent. by the Ordinance mentioned above, but the duty on kola nuts and spirits was left unchanged.

2. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure for the year was £83,217, being less than the revenue by £19,857, less than the estimated expenditure by £2,179, and about £6,000 less than the expenditure for the previous year.

A sum of £8,900 was expended upon the Gambia Company, West African Frontier Force, being an excess of about £2,000 above the estimated expenditure based on peace requirements. This increase in outlay was caused by the employment of the Company on Active Service with the Cameroons Expeditionary Force, and will in part be repaid to the Colony from Imperial Funds.

The principal savings resulted from the unavoidable postponement of certain public works of an estimated cost of £1,854, from vacancies in staff, and from the delay caused by the War in the supply of materials ordered in the United Kingdom.

In general the expenditure for the year followed the normal lines and calls for no special explanation.

3. *Financial position.*—The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1915, was £105,959, and on the 31st December, 1916, £125,816, the increase of £19,857 being the surplus revenue for the year. There is no public debt.

The following is a comparative statement of the total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years.—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1912	96,221	81,340
1913	124,990	95,209
1914	86,071	120,921
1915	92,253	89,028
1916	103,075	83,217

4. *Currency.*—The currency of the Colony consists of British coins, West African silver coin, and certain foreign coins of which the French five franc piece is the only one of importance.

British gold is never found in circulation, and was not even before the war. The little that passes out of European hands is used by natives for ornaments in its ordinary form or made by native goldsmiths into articles of various kinds. The French five franc piece is legal tender in the Colony and Protectorate at 3*s.* 10½*d.*, but is current

in trade at 4*s*. It is very largely used in native trade because of the facility of exchange with the inhabitants of adjoining French territory, and because a considerable proportion of the planters of the ground-nut crop come annually from across the French border, returning to their homes when their nuts have been sold.

The status of the coin was first legalised by an Order of the Queen's Council dated 10th June, 1843, and its use has become so established by custom that probably from 50 to 70 per cent. of payments in trade with natives of the Protectorate is made in the five franc piece.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

1. *General Trade.*—The total value of the Colony's trade in 1916, both import and export, but excluding specie, was £1,021,640, an increase of £288,533 as compared with the previous year. The increase in volume was, however, less than the increase in value, as the cost price of goods had risen considerably since 1915.

2. *Imports.*—The total value of imports was £884,554, including specie to the value of £405,749 and goods for the use of the Colonial Government of the value of £6,137. Thus the total value of goods imported for the purpose of trade was £472,668, an increase of £180,574, as compared with the figures for 1915.

The total value of exports, excluding specie, was £542,843.

With the exception of rice, the import of all the principal articles was greater, both in value and in quantity, than in 1915. In particular, Cotton piece-goods showed an increase in value of £84,452; Cotton hosiery, £4,000; Hardware, £7,000; Provisions, £6,000; Sugar, £8,000; kola nuts, £15,000; Spirits, £3,745; and Tobacco, £1,580.

The increase in quantity, however, in the case of every article, except kola nuts, cannot be measured by the increase in value, in consequence of the advance of prices since the previous year.

The quantity of kola nuts imported is the highest recorded, but the value has been exceeded.

The import of spirits has decreased considerably since the outbreak of war, falling from 114,471 gallons in 1913 to 25,893 gallons in the year under review. The greater part of this import consisted formerly of trade gin from Holland and the decrease is to be attributed to the restriction of communication with that country (see Appendix I).

The import of rice fell from 2,163 tons in 1915 to 1,065 tons in 1916, following the rapid course of decline which has been evident since the outbreak of war. The natives of the Protectorate, in order to guard against a shortage of imported foodstuffs, have grown far larger crops, and rely on imported rice very much less than in former years.

The sources from which the principal articles of import came, remained generally the same as last year, with a slight increase in the proportion derived from the United Kingdom and from France and a slight decrease in that which came from British Colonies. The United Kingdom continues to benefit by the exclusion of Germany, its imports being 54 per cent. as against 41 per cent. in 1914—Germany's share being *nil*, as compared with 12 per cent.

3. *Specie.*—The total value of specie imported was £405,947, of which £180,430 consisted of British coins and £225,319 of French five franc pieces.

The export of specie during the year amounted to £162,704, being composed of British coins to the value of £94,030, and French five franc pieces to the value of £68,674. The value of the coins taken over the French border cannot be calculated.

4. *Exports.*—The principal exports during the year were 46,366 tons of groundnuts, valued at £506,098; 669 tons of palm kernels, valued at £14,671, and 26,496 hides, valued at £10,019.

It has already been mentioned that ground-nuts are the only article upon which an export duty is imposed.

The quantity shipped was less than half the export of the previous year, but, in consequence of higher prices, the value was greater by £105,663. The change, also, which has been apparent in the direction of this trade since the beginning of the War continued in 1916, with the result that, for the first time in the last fifty years, the United Kingdom received a larger portion of the crop than was shipped to France. The export to the United Kingdom amounted to 22,374 tons, and to France 19,313 tons. In 1913, out of a total crop of 67,404 tons, the corresponding figures were 984 tons to the United Kingdom and 42,420 tons to France.

The price obtained by native planters was more than double that paid in 1915, in which the average local value of a ton was £4 3*s.* 0*d.* In 1914 it was £10, and at no other time in the last ten years has it been less than £6 5*s.* 0*d.* In 1916 it was £10. 18*s.* 0*d.* It is probable that planters were discouraged by the fall in price in 1915 and by the prospect of a shortage of imported foodstuffs, and increased the local crops of foodstuffs, rice, corn, and millet, at the expense of the groundnut. Indeed in 1916 corn appeared among exports to the value of £1,412.

The same circumstances no doubt contributed to diminish the influx of the itinerant planters from adjoining French territory to whom allusion has already been made, and by whose numbers the size of the groundnut crop is considerably influenced. In 1915 the number of these men was 32,220, but fell in 1916 to 9,315. They are attracted by the higher prices which the cheapness of river transport enables buyers to pay in this Protectorate than in adjoining portions of the interior, where they are obliged to rely on carriage by other means, and this advantage has recently been increased by the imposition in Senegal of a higher export duty on groundnuts than is collected in this Colony.

When it is considered that the number of persons employed in agriculture in the Protectorate is estimated, according to the Census of 1911, to be about 56,000, it is evident that the addition of the labour of a number of itinerant planters, averaging 12,500 in the last five years, must have a considerable influence on the size of the crop.

Hides.—There was a decrease, as compared with the previous year, both in the number of hides exported and in their value. The lower value was probably responsible for the decrease in the quantity shipped.

There are very large herds of cattle in most parts of the Protectorate, but their owners show a strange reluctance to turn them to commercial use or even to count them.

Their milk is used and butter is made from it, and a few are killed for meat at the trading centres. But in general they are the accompaniment of wealth rather than its source, and the evidence of their owners' importance. They pass as marriage portions and as the price of wives and descend in families as heir-looms.

Palm Kernels.—In 1916 the export of palm kernels was the largest recorded both in value and quantity, and was rather more than double that of the previous year. The increase is partly due to the higher price that was offered, and partly to the larger influx from neighbouring territory of the particular tribe, Jolas, by whom this industry is principally carried on. In 1916 the local value of a ton of palm kernels was £21 18*s.* 0*d.*, and £16 14*s.* 0*d.* in the previous year.

Ivory and Rubber.—The long continued decline of the export of ivory and rubber has reached the point at which the trade in these articles ceases to be of importance. The value of ivory shipped in 1916 was £40, and of rubber £23.

Direction of Exports.—The chief change in the direction of the export trade has already been mentioned with reference to groundnuts. The United Kingdom took 53 per cent., as against 39 per cent. in the previous year, and France 35 per cent., as compared with 47 per cent.

In consequence of the character and composition of the export trade, its direction was not appreciably affected up to the end of 1916 by the restrictions which it had become necessary to impose for reasons connected with the war.

The following table shows the total value of Imports and Exports during the last five years, excluding specie.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1912	471,630	538,593
1913	619,294	662,406
1914	388,339	693,658
1915	302 495	430,617
1916	476,805	542,843

5. *Shipping.*—Though the number of steam ships entered in 1916 was less by 55, and the tonnage less by 180,693 tons than in 1915, as much tonnage was available as was required for the export of the smaller groundnut crop. The proportion of foreign as compared with British ships was slightly higher than in the previous year, in consequence of the increased demands made on British shipping by the war. The number of sailing vessels entered was 93, with a total tonnage of 3,670, as compared with 54, with a tonnage of 2,049, in 1915.

6. *Land Grants.*—Grants of land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance, No. 5 of 1902. In general no Crown grants are made either in the Colony or Protectorate for a longer term than 21 years.

The value of land in Bathurst with access to the river front in the business quarter of the town is very high, and is rising. Probably at the present time it is not less than £5 per square foot in the best situations. All land in the town suitable for business purposes is already in occupation and could only be acquired by negotiation with its present owners.

Grants of land for periods not exceeding 21 years are made at the trading centres in the Protectorate where groundnuts are collected for export. The area granted is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards, and the rent varies between £4 to £1 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The growth of these centres has been remarkable in recent years, and is indicated by the rise in the rent received by the Government from this source from £501 in 1912 to £1,175 in 1916.

Agriculture.

7. The groundnut crop continues to be the outstanding agricultural product of the Colony and the source of its prosperity. The nuts are planted in June and July, at the beginning of the rainy season, gathered in November, and exported during the succeeding six or eight months. The size of the crop shipped in 1916 has already been the subject of comment, as well as certain circumstances which have a constantly recurring effect upon the cultivation of this product.

In other respects the crop was unaffected by any exceptional incident. Unless the native planters are unable to dispose of the whole of the crop, they never retain any portion of it as seed for the following season, and in order to provide them with nuts to sow, and at the same time to maintain the quality of the harvest by a change of seed, the Government has for a number of years been accustomed to purchase a certain quantity of the best of the most recent crop and to distribute it on credit to planters in the various districts who pay for it through their chiefs when the next harvest has been sold.

The increase in the cultivation of local foodstuffs since the outbreak of the War has already been mentioned. The chief product consists of several varieties of corn, planted, like all crops, at the beginning of the rainy season and gathered towards the end of the year. In certain districts where the swampy nature of the ground admits, considerable areas are sown with rice, the arduous process of the cultivation of this grain being carried on entirely by women.

A form of industry which had been in abeyance for a number of years made its reappearance in 1915, when the cutting and the preparation of piassava was begun by a British firm, but operations had not advanced sufficiently by the end of 1916 to enable an export to be made. The plant is found in abundance along the river banks in one district for a distance of about thirty miles.

Palm kernels are gathered chiefly in the province of Kombo and Foni by natives of the Jolah tribe. But a very large majority of natives are engaged in the cultivation of groundnuts, and the collection of palm kernels appears to attract comparatively few, notwithstanding the difference in value, weight for weight, of the two products. It has already been remarked that in 1916 the price of a ton of palm kernels was £21 18*s.* 0*d.* and of groundnuts, £10 18*s.* 0*d.*

III.—LEGISLATION.

41 Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these, 18 were enacted with the object of preparing for the publication of a revised edition of the laws of the Colony by amending existing Ordinances which in certain details were unsuitable or out of date.

There were seven important consolidating Ordinances dealing with the following subjects:—

(1) The Gambia Company, W.A.F.F.
(2) Customs.
(3) Navigation and Pilotage.
(4) The Police Force.
(5) The Bathurst Police Court.
(6) Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder.
(7) Trade Marks.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are eight Elementary schools in the Colony, six in Bathurst and two at MacCarthy Island. Of these one is owned and managed by the Anglican Mission, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, three by the Wesleyan Mission, and one by the Mohammedan community in Bathurst.

The number of pupils at the Anglican School, in 1916, was 243; at the three Roman Catholic Schools, 509; at the three Wesleyan Schools, 641; and at the Mohammedan School, 124.

There are no Government Schools.

One of the Roman Catholic Schools, the Convent school, is for girls only, and another school for boys only. The other schools are attended by boys and girls together. Attendance is voluntary.

All these Elementary schools, with the exception of the Mohammedan school, are affiliated under the Education Ordinance, No. 14, of 1903, and receive aid from the funds of the Colony in accordance with rules made under that Ordinance. This aid takes the form of contributions towards the salaries of European Superintendents, grants based on the average attendance and on the results of an annual examination conducted by the Government Inspector of Schools, and prizes for success in this examination.

An examination of native teachers is also held by the Inspector, in accordance with the rules above mentioned, and Certificates are given, as well as small monetary awards.

The curriculum of the schools is prescribed by the owners, but, as a considerable part of their income is derived from grants based on the results of the annual Government examination, the subjects taught are in fact chiefly determined by the rules above mentioned under which this examination is held.

In addition to Government grants the income of the schools is derived from school fees, which may not exceed 6*d*. per week for each pupil, and from contributions by the owners.

The total expenditure of the affiliated schools in 1916 was £1,962, and of this £1,003 was contributed by the Government.

The Mohammedan school was attended in 1916 by 124 pupils. This school presents candidates for the same annual examination as the other schools, but the financial aid which it receives from the Government is not determined by the results of this examination. The salaries of the teachers are paid by the Government, prizes are given, and a sum is voted annually in the Estimates for the upkeep of the buildings and furniture of the school.

In 1916 the vote for the payment of salaries and prizes was £240, and for the upkeep and buildings and furniture £25. The rest of the revenue of the school consists of school fees, amounting in 1916 to £5 3*s.* 9*d.*, and an annual contribution of £20 from the Mohammedan community.

In addition to the English subjects offered by candidates from this school at the annual general examination, pupils are instructed in Arabic and in the Koran, and are examined annually by the Cadi of the Mohammedan Court.

A Technical and Industrial School is maintained by the Wesleyan Mission and instruction is given by a European Instructor in such subjects as carpentry, masonry, joinery, and blacksmiths' work. There were 15 pupils in 1916. The school receives Government aid in the form of an annual contribution, formerly £300, but now £350, towards the salary of the European Instructor, and prizes given according to the results of an annual examination held by an examiner whom the Government appoints.

The school also derives a considerable revenue from payment for work done for members of the public. In 1916 this sum amounted to £747, the highest in the history of the school.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society also maintains the only Secondary school in the Colony which is managed by the Society independently of Government aid or control, and derives its revenue entirely from contributions from members of the Wesleyan community and from school fees. In 1916 there were 28 pupils at this school, and its expenditure was £145.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

1. Hospitals and Medical Institutions.

(1) The Colonial Hospital, Bathurst.—The total number of persons admitted to the Hospital during 1916 was 494, and the daily average number of patients 14. There were 50 deaths.

Out-patients were attended 7,564 times, and 59 operations were performed.

No structural alterations were made in the hospital during the year, and the number of Medical Officers and of European Nursing Sisters at work in the Colony was continuously less than normal, in consequence of the absence of Members of the Staff on active service at one or other of the seats of war.

(2). At the Infectious Diseases Hospital, situated about two miles out of Bathurst, there were five inmates, two of whom suffered from small-pox and three from chicken-pox. There were no deaths.

(3) At the Home for Destitutes in Bathurst, 6 inmates remained at the end of 1915, 20 were admitted in 1916, 10 were discharged and 7 died, leaving 9 at the end of the year.

Both this institution and the Infectious Diseases Hospital are served by permanent native officials and attended by the Government Medical Officers.

(4) At the MacCarthy Island Hospital, 40 persons were admitted during the year, and out-patients were attended on 1,120 occasions. There were 2 deaths.

This hospital is in charge of a native Dispenser sent from Bathurst and relieved from time to time. Visits are paid to the hospital by a Medical Officer whenever possible.

(5) These four institutions were maintained during the year, with the whole of the Medical Staff, at a total cost of £8,624.

2. Government Saving Bank.

A Government Savings Bank is managed by the Treasury both at Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island, but the latter branch was temporarily closed in May, 1916, and was not re-opened during the year. Interest on deposits is paid at 2½ per cent.

The number of depositors at the end of the year was 630, and the total amount deposited £5,207, the smallest credit in the last five years.

3. MacCarthy Square Board.

A Board consisting of four ex-officio members and four unofficial members appointed for one year by the Governor, was created by the MacCarthy Square Ordinance of 1905, for the control of the public recreation ground known as MacCarthy Square.

The salaries of the employees of the Board were paid by the Government as well as some of its expenses, amounting in all to £106.

VI.—JUDICIAL AND CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

1. Supreme Court.

There were thirty-nine persons prosecuted in the Supreme Court, some of them being charged with several distinct offences. Forty-one convictions for separate offences were recorded, 11 of which were for larceny and sheep stealing, 23 for other offences against property, 2 for murder, 2 for manslaughter, 2 for other offences against the person, and one for an offence classed as Miscellaneous.

The number of persons tried is abnormally high, the rise being due to the detection and punishment of several gangs of thieves of unusual activity. In the case of one of the prisoners convicted of murder, the death sentence was carried out, and in the case of the other, it was commuted to one of imprisonment with hard labour for ten years.

2. Bathurst Police Court.

The number of summary convictions was 448, a decrease of 126 below the total in 1915. Of these about 50 per cent. were for offences against laws dealing with sanitation, particularly those aimed at the extermination of mosquitoes. But a decrease of about 45 per cent. in this Class of offence since 1915 shows the growing appreciation by the inhabitants of the town of the importance of sanitary measures.

3. Protectorate Courts (Native Tribunals).

The number of cases which came before the five summary Courts in the Protectorate was 451, an increase of 115 over the number in the previous year. Seduction, disobedience of the orders of chiefs,

and offences against the person, though not of a serious kind, are the most prevalent cases. There is a remarkable absence of grave crime both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

4. Prisons.

30 prisoners remained in the gaol at the beginning of 1915, and 180 were admitted during the year. At the end of 1916, 50 remained. The daily average was 46·23. The number of admissions was greater by 25 than in 1915, and the daily average by 12·43. The increase was entirely due to the successful prosecution of certain gangs of thieves of whom mention has already been made.

The health of the prisoners was good. Sentence of death was carried out in one case, and one death occurred from natural causes.

Prison labour was employed on public works and on works within the prison of an estimated value of £405. The total cost of the maintenance of the prison, without deducting the estimated value of prison labour, was £1,429. The larger number of prisoners and the rise in the price of food made the cost higher than usual.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

1. Vital Statistics.

No figures or reliable estimates are available with regard to the total native population since the Census of 1911. In that year the total population of Bathurst was given as 7,700 and that of the Protectorate as 138,401.

Nor is any accurate information obtainable in regard to births and deaths in the Protectorate. In the few areas outside the Island of St. Mary, to which a system of registration has been applied, it has not been found to be productive of any useful result, and in 1916 an Ordinance was passed, No. 9 of that year, with the object of confining the compulsory system to places sufficiently advanced to follow it. It is therefore only possible to comment with any degree of accuracy upon the population of Bathurst itself.

The total number of European residents was 147, of whom 133 were males and 14 females. There were no deaths among Europeans and no births. Five were invalided, three being officials and two non-officials.

The native population of Bathurst was estimated to be 7,700, or about 230 above the native population in 1911. The number of births was 314, exceeding the number of deaths, 272, by 42. The birth-rate was 40·7 per 1,000, and the death-rate, 25·3.

Infantile mortality did not drop appreciably below the high figure at which it normally stands. Out of a total number of 314 births there were 22 still births and 74 deaths of infants of less than one year in age.

Thirty-one Christian marriages were solemnised in Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island.

2. Public Health.

Malarial fever was the most prevalent disease. 83 of 494 cases treated in the hospital in Bathurst were cases of this illness, and out of 7,564 occasions on which out-patients were attended, malarial fever was treated 978 times. These figures are about the same as those for 1915. Yellow fever was diagnosed in the case of one native and proved fatal. One European official contracted blackwater fever, but made a satisfactory recovery. There was a small outbreak of small-pox at McCarthy Island of 15 cases, 4 of which were fatal. Two cases were notified in Bathurst.

Five patients were treated in Bathurst for trypanosomiasis of whom two died. No deaths from this cause were reported from the Protectorate, and of the few chronic cases known to exist there, some appear to have recovered.

Pneumonia, a common disease in the Colony at certain seasons, was less prevalent than in the previous year and generally the health of the population was good. The sanitation of Bathurst is in the care of the Board of Health, a body consisting of four ex-officio members, and not more than six others nominated by the Governor.

A sum of £3,736 was spent by the Board in 1916 on its work and on the emoluments of its staff.

Great improvement has been made in the sanitation of the town by the destruction of the breeding places of mosquitoes by the use of oil, the cleaning of bush, filling in low-lying areas, and stocking wells, drains, and permanent collections of water with larvae-eating fish. This improvement is indicated by a comparison of the number of specimens of mosquito larvae found in the town in 1916, namely 265, with the number found in previous years. In 1915, 622 specimens were found, in 1914, 1,036 and in 1913, 957. The comparative rarity of mosquitoes in Bathurst has led to the conclusion that by far the greater number of cases of malaria found in the town are imported from the Protectorate.

3. Meteorological Returns.

There are two Meteorological Stations in the Colony, one in Bathurst, and one at MacCarthy Island, distant from Bathurst about 150 miles. Rain fell in Bathurst on 53 days between the 28th June and the 19th October and on one day in February.

The total rainfall for the year was 38·02 inches, being 9·62 inches less than the rainfall in 1915.

The highest recorded temperature was 98 degrees on the 15th April, and the lowest 56 degrees on the 15th December.

The highest mean temperature in any month was reached in October, being 87 degrees, and the lowest in December, being 59·5 degrees.

At MacCarthy Island rain fell between the 2nd June and the 5th October, the total being 37.75 inches, or 8 inches greater than in 1915. The highest recorded temperature was 114 degrees in May, and the lowest 55 degrees in January. The highest mean temperature was 91 degrees in May, and the lowest 76·5 degrees in January.

VIII.—POSTAL, CABLE, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal Service.

The usual mail service between the Colony and the United Kingdom is by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's steamers at intervals of about two weeks in normal times. Towards this service the Colony pays an annual contribution of £95. War conditions have very considerably increased the intervals between mails and have made regularity impossible. During periods of the year when the export of groundnuts is in progress, communication with Dakar is frequent, and from thence both to France and to the United Kingdom by the groundnut steamers, as well as by a number of others which do not call at this Colony.

There are two Post Offices in the Colony, one in Bathurst and one at MacCarthy Island, 150 miles up the river, for the distribution of mails in the Protectorate. The latter office was temporarily closed during the last half of 1916.

The total revenue of the Post Office in the year under review was £1,048, being £166 above that of the previous year.

The Parcel Post business, and, in connection with it, the Money and Postal Order business, increased considerably both in volume and value, chiefly by the increasing use of the Cash-on-Delivery system. The number of parcels handled was greater by 1,816 than in the previous year and the increase in the value of the Money and Postal Order business was £1,974.

Cable Service.

There was no change during the year in the cable service, which is maintained by the African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, in conjunction with the West African Telegraph Company, Limited.

There is no inland telegraph.

Telephone Service.

The Government maintains a telephone service between Government Offices and certain outlying stations, but the system has not yet been extended for public use.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The various activities of the Colony progressed satisfactorily during the year and the uncertainty which was felt in the early days of the War as to the prospects of trade has gradually disappeared.

The supply of foodstuffs from outside the Colony was maintained, and, though the cost rose considerably, it had not become necessary by the end of the year to institute Government control of prices or to find new sources of supply. The necessity for both these measures has arisen since the close of 1916.

The most important public work carried out in the Colony in recent times, the pipe-borne water supply for Bathurst, was practically completed during the year and an intermittent supply was given. By this means water is brought to the town through a distance of

about 17 miles of pipe, replacing the supply which the public have drawn in the past from wells. The water from these was often brackish and they formed a prolific breeding place for mosquitoes. The total cost of the new system was about £41,000. A water rate of 1½ per cent. of the rateable value of premises in the town has been imposed but has not yet been collected.

The town has also been greatly improved by the entire re-alignment of streets, the removal of all encroachments under special legislative powers and the adjustment to their proper limits of the street fronts of privately-owned premises.

The population continued to exhibit their loyalty and interest in the War by generous contribution to all war funds which were brought to their notice, notwithstanding that the increased cost of living left the majority with little to spare. The total sum contributed by the Colony to such funds up to the end of 1916 was £12,868.

E. St. J. JACKSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia.
29th August, 1917.

APPENDIX I.

Comparative Statement showing total quantity imported, and value and revenue collected on Spirits during the Years 1912–1916.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.	Reduced to 100° Tralles	Declared value.	Revenue derived from luties.	Rate of duty chargeable.	Remarks.
			£	£		
1912	72,158	—	10,960	11,887	From 24th April, 1908, 4*s.* 2*d.* the imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength. Of greater strength 1*d.* per degree. Provided in the case of spirits other than whisky and brandy under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 30 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 1·44 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1913	114,279	—	17,064	18,131	As above	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 1·56 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1914	26,780	11,471	4,991	4,823	As above	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0·72 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1915	16,547	7,441	4,104	3,814	From 1st August, 1915, 5*s.* 6*d.* per imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength; of strength greater than standard strength for every degree or part thereof an additional 1½*d.* Provided that in the case of spirits other than brandy or whisky under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 26 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0·79 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1916	25,893	9,788	7,849	5,833	From 1st January, 1916, 5*s.* 6*d.* per imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits other than perfumes, non-potable spirits and drugs and medicine containing spirits of or under standard strength; of strength greater than standard strength for each degree or part of a degree above standard strength an additional 1½*d.* Provided that in the case of spirits other than brandy and whisky under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 26 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0·89 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.

APPENDIX II.

Work Conducted by the Imperial Institute during the year 1916 for the Colony of the Gambia.

Economic Investigations.

No samples of economic products from the Gambia were received for investigation at the Imperial Institute in 1916.

Economic Enquiries.

Several enquiries relating to products derived from, or imported into the Gambia, were dealt with by the Technical Information Bureau during the year.

The British representatives of a native trader in the Colony, who was stated to be able to supply large quantities of groundnuts, were placed in communication with firms in England who are now crushing the nuts. The names of makers of machinery for the preparation of palm oil were supplied to an enquirer in the Colony. Other subjects relating to the Gambia regarding which information was furnished, included timber and forest products, oilseeds, rice, and cotton goods.

General information relating to the conditions in the Colony and to its trade was also given to enquirers.

Publications.

The following articles dealing with products of the Gambia, or relating to subjects of special interest to the Colony, were published in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" for 1916 (Vol. XIV):—

"Feeding value of palm kernel cake and meal."

"Some present needs of the British Rubber Industry."

Gambia Court.

Gambia is represented in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute by a Court containing exhibits illustrating the resources and industries of the country.

The wall case has been re-arranged, and new labels added.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
903	Cyprus	1915–1916
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	"
933	St. Helena	"
934	Ceylon	1916
935	Malta	1916–1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 979.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 936.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

February, 1919.

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No. 979.

GAMBIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1917.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue collected during this year was £117,977—an increase of £14,902 over that of the preceding year and only £7,018 less than the revenue collected in 1913, which is the highest yet recorded.

The heads of revenue and the amounts collected under each during the year were as follows :—

	£
(1) Customs Duties	84,758
(2) Port Dues	1,183
(3) Licences, &c.	1,538
(4) Fees of Court, &c.	5,079
(5) Post Office	902
(6) Rent of Government property (not including Protectorate land rents)	1,286
(7) Interest	5,284
(8) Protectorate	17,029
(9) Miscellaneous	903
(10) Land Sales	15
	£117,977

Customs duties provided, as usual, over 70 per cent. of the revenue, and showed an increase of £9,341, as compared with 1916, the receipts from *ad valorem* duties (£29,313) being the largest ever recorded. This is due not so much to larger importations as to increasing value of articles on which an *ad valorem* duty is paid. Import duty on kola nuts and export duty on ground-nuts continue to be appreciable items of Customs revenue.

Port dues showed a small increase of £87, as compared with 1916.

Fees of Court, &c., increased by £960, owing chiefly to the increased rateable value of properties in Bathurst, where trade expansion and the consequent demand for building sites have sent up the value of land considerably. Survey fees, freight, and passages by Government vessels and passport fees also contributed to the increase.

There was an increase of £709 under Rent of Government property due to the greater revenue derived from market dues and to a new sub-head—Rent of Crown lands in Bathurst. These lands lie between Wellington Street and the river and were formerly utilized, without payment of any rent, by the various trading firms holding property

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861: [Cd. 7622–52.]

(C518) Wt.1/155. 1000-90. 2.19. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

on the opposite side of the street. They are now leased to the merchants on a year to year tenancy at a uniform rate of £2 10*s.* per 1,000 square feet.

Under Interest there is an increase of £1,691—the result of increased investments and a larger cash balance on deposit at interest. The value of the Colony's investments at the end of the year was £116,137 (market value, £89,373) and the cash balance was £43,574.

The revenue under the head Protectorate exceeded by £4,850 that collected in 1916. This was chiefly due to there being a larger number of immigrant farmers than in the preceding year with a consequent increase in the collections of Hut Tax and Farm Rents, which are the chief sources of Protectorate revenue.

Only three heads showed a decrease as compared with 1916, viz. :—Licences, Post Office, and Miscellaneous, which were respectively £558, £147 and £1,990 less than in the previous year. A considerable falling-off in the importation of spirits resulted in fewer spirit licences being issued ; and the postal revenue continues to suffer owing to the continued decrease in the value of stamps purchased by European dealers.

2. *Expenditure.*—The Expenditure for the year followed the usual heads and amounted to £94,519, being greater by £11,302 than that of the year 1916. It included a gift of £10,000 to the Imperial Government for the purchase of aeroplanes and one of £1,000 to the British Red Cross.

3. *Financial position.*—The following is a comparative statement of the total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1913	124,990	95,209
1914	86,071	120,921
1915	92,253	89,028
1916	103,075	83,217
1917	117,977	94,519

The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1916, was £125,816, and at the end of 1917, £149,274, the difference of £23,458 being the excess of Revenue over Expenditure for the year. There is no public debt.

4. *Currency.*—The currency of the Colony consists of British coins, West African silver coins (2/–, 1/–, 6*d.*, 3*d.*), and the French five-franc piece, but the circulation of the last named has considerably decreased recently owing to the French Government having prohibited its exportation from France. British silver currency is now being gradually replaced by the West African silver coins. The five-franc pieces are known locally as " dollars " and are accepted by the Government and the banks at 3*s.* 10½*d.* (the legal value) but are worth 4*s.* for trade purposes.

There are two Banks established in the Colony, the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and the Colonial Bank, the latter having opened a branch at Bathurst in December, 1917.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

1. *Volume of Trade.*—The total value of the Colony's trade inwards and outwards (exclusive of specie) for the year 1917, was £1,649,958—

an increase of £628,311, as compared with 1916. Although the continued inflation of prices accounts in part for this large increase, the volume of trade was also greater.

The following table gives the total value of imports and exports for the last five years, exclusive of specie :—

	Imports.	Exports.
1913	£619,294	£662,406
1914	388,339	693,658
1915	302,495	430,620
1916	478,805	542,843
1917	697,052	952,906

2. *Imports.*—The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was greater by £218,247 than in 1916. The principal articles which showed increases, as compared with the previous year, were cotton piece-goods, other cotton goods, rice, empty bags, and hardware.

The total quantity of cotton piece-goods imported was 9,868,789 yards, valued at £229,752, or an increase in quantity of 2,654,885 yards, and in value of £93,153, as compared with 1916. The United Kingdom supplied 94·45 per cent. of this article.

Other cotton goods were valued at £32,248—an increase of £16,347.

The quantity of rice imported was greater than in any year since 1914, the importation amounting to 46,159 cwts., valued at £60 741, as compared with 21,310 cwts. valued at £19,740 in 1916.

The United States of America appears for the first time on the list of countries supplying rice to the Colony.

The good prices paid for groundnuts in 1916 no doubt induced the natives to pay more attention to the cultivation of this product and less to the growing of foodstuffs than in recent years. They, however, fully realize the folly of depending on imported foodstuffs, which are not only scarce, but expensive, and large quantities of cereals are now regularly grown in the Protectorate.

Empty bags, which are used in the groundnut trade, exhibited an increase of 168,729 in number and £8,954 in value, as compared with 1916.

The value of hardware imported was £14,597—an increase of £2,219 over 1916.

Kola nuts, weighing 1,303,454 lbs., and valued at £112,872, were imported from the neighbouring Colony of Sierra Leone. The value constitutes a record, being greater by £36,988 than the value of the importation of this article in the previous year, but the quantity imported in 1916 exceeded that in 1917 by 135,180 lbs.

4,946 cwt of. wheaten flour, valued at £8,300, was imported, whereas in 1916 the quantity was 8,834 cwt., and the value £7,995.

The value of provisions imported was £9,207, a decrease of £2,809, as compared with 1916.

Tobacco, weighing 145,253 lbs., and worth £8,064, was imported—a decrease of 218,748 lbs. in weight and £5,212 in value, when compared with the previous year.

The quantity of spirits imported was little more than half of that imported in 1916, but the value was only £966 less (see Appendix I).

The decline in the importation of spirits is due to the difficulty of obtaining trade gin from Holland, owing to the lack of means of communication with that country.

The importation of sugar also declined slightly. It was obtainable in very small quantities from Europe and the supplies came chiefly from the United States of America. Before the War most of the sugar came from France. The quantity imported in 1917 was 3,976 cwt., valued at £9,570. In 1916 the figures were 4,608 cwts., valued at £9,763.

The United Kingdom continued to be the chief source of supply, accounting for 58 per cent. of the imports, excluding specie. France dropped from 21 per cent. in 1916 to 12 per cent., yielding second place to the British Colonies, which rose from 18 per cent. to 19 per cent.: the United States of America supplied 7 per cent. of the imports and ceased to be classed under "Other Countries." The proportions in 1914 were:—United Kingdom, 41 per cent.; British Colonies, 20 per cent.; France, and its possessions, 22 per cent.; Germany, 12 per cent.; Other Countries, 5 per cent.

3. *Exports.*—The total value of the exports, exclusive of specie, exceeded the value in 1916 by £410,063.

The principal articles of export were, as usual, groundnuts, hides, and palm kernels.

The groundnut crop of 1916–17 was above the average, and 74,300 tons, valued at £869,790, were shipped in 1917, as compared with 46,366 tons, valued at £506,098, in 1916. This is by far the most valuable groundnut crop exported, but the quantity was exceeded by that of 1914–15.

The increase in the crop was the result of the good prices obtained by native planters in 1915–16, which encouraged them to increase the acreage planted in groundnuts, while at the same time not neglecting their food crops. The increase in this crop is also intimately connected with the increase in the number of immigrant farmers, who numbered 20,727, as compared with 9,315 in the previous planting season. These strangers are naturally attracted by high prices, and there is little doubt that the prices paid in any given year have a direct effect on the number of immigrant farmers in the following planting season, and consequently on the size of the following crop. It is well to note in this connection, that these men devote their whole attention to groundnuts and are not concerned with the cultivation of food crops. In fact, districts where food is scarce are avoided by the strangers.

Of the total crop, 56,839 tons went to the United Kingdom and 15,892 tons to France.

The export of hides constituted a record, 101,120 valued at £58,951, having been exported, as compared with 26,946, valued at £10,019 in 1916. Of these the United Kingdom took 97·89 per cent. This sudden increase is undoubtedly due to the large mortality among cattle.

The export of palm kernels decreased from 669 tons, valued at £14,671 in 1916, to 532 tons, valued at £7,994 in 1917. A considerable quantity of the kernels is produced in French territory and the reduction in the export is probably due to recruiting in French Cassamance. With the exception of 4 tons shipped to France, all the kernels went to the United Kingdom.

An increasing trade in calabashes (gourds) is done with Sierra Leone, but exports of wax, ivory, and rubber are now negligible.

It is of interest to note that piassava reappeared on the list of exports in 1917, after an interval of 14 years, 15 tons valued at £550, having been exported. This fibrous plant is found in abundance along the river banks in one district and a Company was formed in 1915 for the purpose of reviving the industry.

Of the total exports, 79 per cent. went to the United Kingdom and 18 per cent. to France. In 1916, the figures were 53 per cent. and 35 per cent., respectively. Since the outbreak of war, the percentage of the groundnut crop shipped to England has increased steadily. Before the War nearly the whole crop went to France.

4. *Shipping.*—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 457, with an aggregate tonnage of 398,524—an increase over 1916 of 15 vessels and 26,848 tons. This increase is due to the necessity for increased tonnage to carry the larger groundnut crop.

The number of steam vessels and sailing vessels entered, was respectively 137 and 90, and of those cleared 138 were steam vessels and 92 sailing vessels. Of the steam vessels entered and cleared, 125 out of 275, or less than half, were British, but the tonnage of British ships exceeded that of foreign ships by 188,347 tons. Of the sailing vessels entered and cleared, 40 with a tonnage of 781 were British, and 142, with a tonnage of 7,076, were foreign.

5. *Land Grants.*—Grants of land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance, No. 5, of 1902. As a rule, no Crown Grants are made, either in the Colony or the Protectorate, for a longer period than 21 years.

The filling in of the Half-Die area of Bathurst is gradually rendering habitable the swamp at the back of the town. This land is the property of the Crown, and the demand for it is keen.

The general value of land in Bathurst, especially those lots with access to the river front, in the business quarter of the town, has increased appreciably in recent years.

Grants of land at trading centres in the Protectorate are made for periods of 21 years, at rates varying from £1 to £4 per 1,000 square yards, according to the situation and the facilities existing for shipment of produce in ocean-going steamers, which cannot travel further than MacCarthy Island. With the growth of trade the number of these grants has increased considerably.

6. *Agriculture.*—Groundnuts continue to be the staple product of the Gambia and the only export of any imporance. Most of the seed is supplied by the Government through the merchants, as the natives never keep sufficient for their requirements, and planting takes place in June and July when the rains have begun. The rains cease in October, and the crop is reaped in November.

In normal times it is all exported by the following April, but, owing to the present scarcity of shipping, exportation goes on practically all the year round and merchants have been obliged to erect large buildings for storing the nuts.

The natives of the Proctectorate continue to devote considerable attention to the growing of food crops. Several varieties of corn are grown, also rice in suitable areas.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Ordinances were passed during the year. None of them appears to call for special comment.

Volume I of the revised edition of the Ordinances of the Colony, containing the Ordinances in force on the 30th September, 1916, was brought into force on the 5th April, 1917, by Proclamation. Volume II contains certain Ordinances, passed after the 30th September, 1916, which were in force on 31st October, 1917, and the subsidiary legislation in force on the latter date.

A large number of consolidating statutory rules was passed during the year in preparation for the publication of Volume II.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are eight elementary schools in the Colony, six in Bathurst, and two at MacCarthy Island. Of these, one is owned and managed by the Anglican Mission, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, three by the Wesleyan Mission, and one by the Mohammedan community in Bathurst. There are no Government schools.

One of the Roman Catholic Schools, the Convent School, is for girls only, and another school for boys only. The other schools are attended by boys and girls together. Attendance is voluntary.

All these elementary schools, with the exception of the Mohammedan school, are affiliated under the Education Ordinance, No. 14 of 1903, and receive aid from the funds of the Colony, in accordance with the Education Rules, 1917, made under that Ordinance. This aid takes the form of contributions towards the salaries of European superintendents, grants based on the average attendance, and on the results of an annual examination conducted by the Inspector of Schools, prizes for success in this examination, and bonuses to teachers.

An examination of native teachers is also held by the inspector, in accordance with the rules above mentioned, and certificates are given, as well as small monetary awards.

The curriculum of the schools is prescribed by the owners, but, as a considerable part of their income is derived from grants based on the results of the annual Government examination, the subjects taught are in fact chiefly determined by the rules above mentioned, under which this examination is held.

In addition to Government grants, the income of the schools is derived from school fees, which may not exceed 6*d.* per week for each pupil, and from contributions by the owners.

The number of pupils on the registers of the elementary schools of the Colony during 1917, was 1,375, or 143 less than in the previous year. The number was made up as follows:—Anglican School, 211; 3 Roman Catholic Schools, 532; 3 Wesleyan Schools, 497; Mohammedan School, 135.

The total expenditure of the elementary schools in 1917 was £2,187, of which £1,027 was contributed by the Government.

The Mohammedan School was attended in 1917 by 135 pupils, an increase of 11 over 1916, and the highest during the 14 years of the school's existence. This school presents candidates for the same annual examination as the other elementary schools, but the financial aid which it receives from the Government is not determined by the

results of the examination. The salaries of the teachers are paid by the Government, prizes are given, and a sum is provided annually in the Estimates for the upkeep of the buildings and furniture of the school.

In 1917, the vote for the payment of salaries and prizes was £240, and for the upkeep of buildings and furniture £25. The Mohammedan community contributes annually a sum of £20 towards the upkeep of the school. School fees in 1917 amounted to £3 3*s.* 9*d.*

A sum of £68 was spent during the year on the buildings and furniture. The school buildings are now in excellent condition.

In addition to the English subjects offered by candidates from this school at the annual general examination, pupils are instructed in Arabic and in the Koran, and are examined annually by the Cadi of the Mohammedan Court.

A Technical and Industrial School is maintained by the Wesleyan Mission, and instruction is given by a European instructor in such subjects as carpentry, masonry, joinery and blacksmith's work. There were 18 pupils on the register in 1917, the average attendance being 11. The school receives a Government Grant-in aid of £350 towards the salary of the European instructor. The Government also gives prizes based on the results of an annual examination, held by an examiner appointed by the Governor. The school derives a considerable revenue from payment for work done for members of the public. In 1917, this sum amounted to £417. The expenditure of the school was £844.

The Wesleyan Mission also maintains the only Secondary school in the Colony, which is managed by the Mission independently of Government aid or control, and derives its revenue entirely from contributions from members of the Wesleyan community and from school fees. In 1917 there were 24 pupils on the roll, with an average attendance of 17. The expenditure of the school was £141.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

1. *Hospitals and Medical Institutions.*—The total number of persons admitted to the Victoria Hospital, Bathurst, during 1917, was 482. The daily average number of patients was 12. There were 45 deaths. Out-patients were attended to 6,600 times, and 25 operations were performed. A new mortuary was erected, with an apartment for post-mortem examination, and the operating theatre was improved by the provision of additional ventilation and by replacing the wooden floor with glazed tiles.

The number of medical officers and European nursing sisters available for hospital duty continued to be much under peace strength.

The only hospital in the Protectorate is at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island. No medical officer was available to take charge of this hospital, but the Senior Medical Officer makes periodical visits, and a certificated native dispenser is resident. There were 19 persons admitted in 1917, and 3 deaths. There were 1,223 cases in the out-patients department.

At the Infectious Diseases Hospital, situated about 2 miles out of Bathurst, 3 cases of chicken-pox were treated during the year, and there were no deaths.

At the Home for destitute persons in Bathurst, 9 persons remained at the end of 1916. There were 10 admissions during 1917, and 3

persons were discharged, and 7 died, leaving 9 remaining at the end of the year.

The total cost of all medical services during 1917 was £6,607.

2. *Government Savings Bank.*—There is a Government Savings Bank at the Treasury, Bathurst, and a branch at the Sub-Treasury, Georgetown, MacCarthy Island. There were 710 depositors, with £6,867 to their credit at the end of the year. The amount of invested funds is £5,000. Interest is paid at the rate of 2½ per cent., and there are no expenses of management. The popularity of this institution tends to increase from year to year.

3. *MacCarthy Square Board.*—A Board consisting of four ex-officio members and four unofficial members, appointed yearly by the Governor, was created by the MacCarthy Square Ordinance of 1905, for the control of the public recreation ground, known as the Victoria Recreation Ground, MacCarthy Square. Funds were provided in the annual Estimates of the Colony. In 1917, an Ordinance was passed, divesting the Board of Management of MacCarthy Square of the ownership and control of the Victoria Recreation Ground, vesting the ownership of the land in the Crown, and the control thereof in the Board of Health.

VI.—JUDICIAL AND CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

1. Supreme Court.

There were 22 persons prosecuted in the Supreme Court, 21 of whom were convicted. There were 4 charges of murder, arising out of the death of 3 persons. Two of the accused were natives of the least civilised tribe in the Protectorate, and were convicted of the murder of another native, in a remote part of Foni, for purposes of robbery. The death sentence was carried out in each case as near as possible to the scene of the crime. Homicide arising from such motives is extremely rare in this Colony. Of the other two persons charged, one was a native of Bathurst, and was convicted of the murder of another native in that town, apparently from motives of jealousy, and was hanged. The other accused was convicted of manslaughter in respect of the homicide of another native at Cape St. Mary, while in a state of extreme intoxication, and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

Six persons were convicted of other offences against the person, 3 of larceny, 7 of other offences against property, and 1 of an offence classed as miscellaneous, namely, desertion from the Police Force. The 3 persons charged with larceny were all native officials of the Government employed in the Postal Department.

When it is considered that the population of the Colony and Protectorate is about 185,000, the very small number of cases brought before the Supreme Court affords striking evidence of the rarity of serious crime.

2. Bathurst Police Court.

Though this Court has, in theory, jurisdiction over the whole of the Colony and Protectorate, it deals in practice only with cases arising in the Island of St. Mary and its immediate neighbourhood, and the harbour. The population of this area is about 8,000.

During the year, 564 cases were brought before the Court, as compared with 526 in 1916. Of these, 16 were discharged, either for want of prosecution, or on the merits of the case, 22 were committed for trial by the Supreme Court, and 526 were summarily convicted. This total includes 230 prosecutions for offences against those sections of the Public Health Ordinance, 1912, which aim at the extermination of mosquitoes. There were 40 cases of larceny, 40 cases of persons in possession of firearms without licence, 18 cases of drunkenness, 32 for the placing of obstructions in the streets, and 20 under the French Colonial Conscripts Deportation Ordinance, 1916. The remaining 146 summary convictions contained no large groups, but consisted of petty offences of common kinds and showed no unusual characteristics.

The total number of summary convictions was 16 more than in 1916. The increase is entirely to be found in the number of prosecutions for offences against the Public Health Ordinance. Convictions for drunkenness declined from 22 to 18, and those for larceny remained at the normal figure. This last fact is perhaps remarkable in view of the great increase in the cost of living, and in particular of those foodstuffs on which the poorer portion of the population entirely subsist. The increase in the number of convictions under the Public Health Ordinance is probably due rather to keener vigilance on the part of sanitary inspectors than to growing laxity on the part of the native population.

The large number of prosecutions for the possession of firearms without licence was not the consequence of any widespread attempt by unauthorised persons to obtain arms, but it is accounted for by the lapsing of old licences under the Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1916, and the failure of persons holding old licences to get them renewed within the time allowed after the Ordinance quoted came into force.

3. Protectorate Courts (Native Tribunals).

The five Provinces of the Protectorate have a native Tribunal for each of the thirty-eight districts into which they are divided, twelve in Kombo and Foni, eight in the South Bank, and six in each of the other provinces, the North Bank, MacCarthy Island, and the Upper River.

The constitution and powers of these native Tribunals are defined by the Protectorate Ordinance, 1913. Their criminal jurisdiction is, broadly, the same as that of the Bathurst Police Court, and they deal also with a special class of offences, defined by the Ordinance quoted above, arising out of the conditions of native life in the Protectorate and its government.

In the year under review, 471 cases were brought before the native Tribunals, as compared with 451 in 1916. In 462 cases the accused persons were convicted.

The largest class of cases, 242 out of the total of 471, consisted of prosecutions for special offences under the Protectorate Ordinance, including offences against the authority of head chiefs, and seductions.

The absence of any case too serious to be disposed of by the native Tribunals, and the very large proportion of those which were deemed to be sufficiently punished by fine without imprisonment, namely,

430, as compared with 32 out of the total number of punishments awarded, affords remarkable testimony of the quiet temper and law abiding nature of the population of the Protectorate.

4. Prisons.

The number of persons remaining in the gaol at the end of 1916 was 50, and 102 were admitted during the year. At the end of 1917, 36 remained. The number of admissions was less by 78 than in 1916; the daily average was 45·57, as compared with 46·23 in the previous year.

The health of the prisoners was good. The scale of diet was reduced in October, after close medical scrutiny, and has proved satisfactory, as, while a considerable saving has been effected, the health of the prisoners has remained good. The previous diet scale was unduly extravagant.

Prison labour, of an estimated value of £465, was employed in public works and on works within the prison. The total gross cost of the prison was £1,684. The continued rise in the price of food and clothing is reflected in the increasing cost of this institution.

An unusual feature was the carrying out of 3 death sentences. Only one of them, however, was actually carried out in the prison, the other two culprits suffering the penalty, as already mentioned, in the Protectorate, as near as practicable to the scene of the crime.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND CLIMATE.

1. Vital Statistics.

In the census of 1911, the population of Bathurst was given as 7,700, and that of the Protectorate as 138,401. It is probable that the population of Bathurst has increased very little in the last 6 or 7 years; on the other hand, the latest estimate of the population of the Protectorate is 176,500.

No reliable information is obtainable in regard to births and deaths in the Protectorate.

The total number of Europeans resident was 130, of whom 116 were males and 14 females. There were no deaths among Europeans, and no births. Four were invalided, of whom 1 was an official, and 3 were non-officials.

The native population of Bathurst was estimated to be 7,700, or about 230 above the native population in 1911. The number of births was 337, and the number of deaths 264. The birth-rate was 43·77 per thousand, and the death-rate 34·29. It is satisfactory to note that there was a distinct drop in infantile mortality, as compared with previous years.

Twenty-four Christian marriages were solemnised in Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island.

2. Public Health.

Malarial fever was, as usual, the most prevalent disease: 148 out of 482 cases treated in the hospital at Bathurst were cases of this disease, and, out of 6,600 occasions in which out-patients were attended, malarial fever was treated 1,061 times. These figures are somewhat

larger than those of the two previous years, but, the comparative rarity of mosquitoes in Bathurst has led to the conclusion that by far the greater number of cases of malaria found in the town are imported from the Protectorate.

In Bathurst, one death occurred from yellow fever—a native, but there was no epidemic.

Small-pox was reported in the Protectorate in April, and a medical officer was sent to investigate. He reported that, before his arrival active precautions had been taken to segregate infected persons, and a large number of vaccinations had been performed by the Commissioner, thus establishing a " ring fence " of vaccination around the infected area and checking the epidemic. The total number of cases seen was 50, the death-rate being 4 per cent. The number of vaccinations performed during the year was 8,784—664 in Bathurst, and 8,120 in the Protectorate. Of these 3,751 were pronounced successes and 310 failures, while 4,723 were not seen. It is probable that the large majority of those not seen were successful. Vaccination is performed in the Protectorate by the Travelling Commissioners, during the cool season, and the natives have learned to appreciate its value.

Generally, the health of the population was good.

The sanitation of Bathurst is in the care of the Board of Health, a body consisting of 4 ex-officio members, and not more than 6 others, appointed by the Governor. A sum of £5,175 was spent by the Board in 1917 on its work and on the emoluments of its staff.

The improvement in the sanitation of the town continues, as indicated by a further decline in the specimens of mosquito larvae found, namely, 238, as compared with 265 in 1916, 622 in 1915, and 1,036 in 1914. In this connection, the introduction of a pipe-borne water supply has had a very decided influence for good.

During the year, 97 cess-pits and 76 wells were closed, and a considerable area of mangrove bush outside the western boundary of the town was cleared.

The filling in of the swamp, at Half Die, progressed satisfactorily.

Ordinance No. 6, of 1917, was passed, giving the Governor-in-Council power by Order to apply any of the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, 1912, to any place in the Protectorate. The latter Ordinance applies only to the Island of St. Mary.

3. Climate.

There are two Meteorological Stations in the Colony, one at Bathurst, and the other at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island, which is distant from Bathurst about 150 miles.

Rain fell in Bathurst on 52 days, between the 1st June and the 6th October. The total rainfall for the year was 37·68 inches, being ·34 of an inch less than in 1916. The highest recorded temperature was 98 degrees, on the 3rd April, and the lowest 50 degrees, on the 11th and 12th December. The highest mean temperature in any month was 86·9 in April, and the lowest 56·2 in December.

At Georgetown, rain fell between the 18th June and the 17th November, the total being 45·94 inches or 8·19 more than in 1916. The highest recorded temperature was 109 degrees, on several days in April and May, and the lowest 56 degrees, on several days in January

and September. The highest mean temperature was 89 degrees in May, and the lowest 76 in September.

VIII.—POSTAL, CABLE, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal Service.

The usual mail service between the Colony and the United Kingdom, is by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's steamers, at intervals of about two weeks in normal times. Towards this service the Colony pays an annual contribution of £95. War conditions have very considerably increased the intervals between mails, and have made regularity impossible. All mails to Europe are now despatched via Dakar, and thence by French steamers to France. During periods of the year when the export of groundnuts is in progress, communication with Dakar is frequent by the groundnut steamers.

There are two Post Offices in the Colony, one in Bathurst, and the other at Gerogetown, MacCarthy Island. The latter office, which was closed in 1916, was re-opened on the 1st October, 1917.

The total revenue of the Post Office in the year under review was £902, being £146 less than that of the previous year. The expenditure was £784.

There was an appreciable decrease in the money and postal order business, partly accounted for by the closing of the Post Office at Georgetown during the first nine months of the year. The parcel post business showed a slight decrease, as compared with the previous year.

Cable Service.

The African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, maintains the only cable telegraph station in the Colony. There is no inland telegraph.

Telephone Service.

The Government maintains a telephone service between Government Offices and certain outlying stations, but the system has not yet been extended for public use.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony continues to prosper.

Imported foodstuffs are scarce and expensive, but, on the other hand, wages have risen, and the price paid for nuts locally is appreciably higher than in normal times. In March, 1917, it became necessary to prescribe maximum prices at which the principal articles of food might be sold, and these prices have been revised from time to time.

During the year, the people of the Protectorate suffered a severe loss, which, however, they accepted with their usual equanimity. Their cattle were decimated by disease, which began about June, having spread to the Gambia from French territory. It is estimated that between 75 per cent. and 95 per cent. perished. The disease was possibly rinderpest, but, in the absence of a veterinary officer, it is impossible to make an authoritative statement on this point.

In the neighbouring French Colonies it has been referred to under two names—"peste bovine" and "peripneumonie contagieuse." A predisposing cause of the out-break of disease was no doubt the fact that the country was over-stocked with cattle, due to the strange reluctance of the natives to part with their animals, which they regard as the outward and visible signs of wealth and power, large herds being kept merely for show. These visitations appear to pass through in varying degrees of virulence, at fairly long intervals, and the experience, though painful, is nothing new. The only serious consequence that might follow, is a possible reduction in the productivity of the soil, owing to the absence of cattle manure, as no artificial fertilizers are used.

The most important public work carried out during the year was the erection of a Sanitary Station, on the western side of the road to Cape St. Mary, and about 2¼ miles from Bathurst. This station provides means for dealing with any sudden and serious outbreak of infectious disease, and the necessity for it has been frequently urged by the medical and sanitary authorities during the last 6 years.

A new Customs Office was erected by contract on the Eastern side of Wellington Street, immediately south of the Government Wharf. The accommodation consists of four rooms, with a 6-feet verandah all round.

The population continue to respond generously to the demands made on them for various War funds. Individual subscriptions to Red Cross Funds during the year amounted to £1,100 14*s.*, and the Government contributed £1,000. The Colony also contributed £10,000 towards the purchase of fighting aeroplanes. The total contributions of the Gambia to such funds, up to the end of 1917, amount to £26,232.

J. I. LAUDER,

Officer-in-Charge Secretariat.

Bathurst, Gambia.
30th September, 1918.

APPENDIX I.

Comparative Statement showing total quantity imported, value and revenue collected on Spirits during the undermentioned years.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.	Reduced to 100° Tralles.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Rate of duty chargeable.	Remarks.
			£	£		
1913	114,279	—	17,064	18,131	From 24th April, 1908, 4*s.* 2*d.* the imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength; of greater strength 1*d.* per degree. Provided in the case of spirits other than whisky and brandy under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 30 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 1·56 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1914	26,780	11,471	4,991	4,823	As above	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0·72 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1915	16,547	7,441	4,104	3,814	From 1st August, 1915, 5*s.* 6*d.* per imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength; of strength greater than standard strength for every degree or part thereof an additional 1½*d.* Provided that in the case of spirits other than brandy or whisky under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 26 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0·79 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1916	25,893	9,788	7,849	5,833	From 1st January, 1916, 5*s.* 6*d.* per imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits other than perfumes, non-potable spirits and drugs and medicines containing spirits of or under standard strength; of strength greater than standard strength for every degree or part of a degree above standard strength an additional 1½*d.* Provided that in the case of spirits other than brandy and whisky under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1*d.* for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 26 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0·89 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1917	13,497	5,689	6,883	3,307	As above	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0·69 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.

APPENDIX II.

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute during the year 1917 for the Colony of the Gambia.

Economic Investigations.

During the year the Imperial Institute was consulted as to the possible existence of bauxite in the Gambia, and a mineral sample which was specially submitted in this connection was examined. The results showed, however, that the ferruginous constituent consisted essentially of ironstone, and did not indicate that bauxite of commercial value is likely to be associated with the material represented by the sample.

No evidence that deposits of a bauxitic character exist in the Gambia has been afforded by the results of the examination of the mineral specimens hitherto received at the Imperial Institute from the Colony, but further samples have now been forwarded for examination in order to determine the point.

Economic Enquiries.

A number of enquiries relating to the products, industries, and imports of the Gambia were dealt with by the Technical Information Bureau during the year.

An enquirer in the Colony was supplied with lists of firms in the United Kingdom able to supply various kinds of machinery, including rice machinery, laundry plant, timber machinery, concrete machinery, and brick and tile machines. In the case of rice, particulars and prices of the machinery required were supplied. Information was furnished to the Colonial Office in connection with the question of food supplies for the Colony, and to other enquirers on a variety of subjects, including ground-nuts, palm kernels, and other oilseeds; ground-nut decorticating machinery; palm kernel machinery; piassava; timbers; mangrove bark; and fishing nets.

General information relating to the Colony was also furnished to enquirers.

Publications.

The following articles dealing with products of the Gambia, or relating to subjects of special interest to the Colony, were published in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute," for 1917 (Vol. XV):—

Production and Uses of Rice.
The African Palm Oil Industry, III. Machinery.
Palm Nut Cracking Machinery.
Raffia or Bass: Its Production, Preparation, and Utilisation.
Baobab Wood and Bark for Paper-Making.

The fourth volume of the Imperial Institute Series of Handbooks to the Commercial Resources of the Tropics, entitled "Cotton and other Vegetable Fibres: Their Production and Utilisation," by Ernest Goulding, D.Sc. (Lond.), F.I.C., of the Scientific and Technical Department, Imperial Institute, was published during the year. The book is written with special reference to British West Africa, and deals with all the most important fibres of commerce, including the following, which are of particular interest to the Gambia; cotton, jute, Hibiscus, *Urena lobata*, piassava.

Gambia Court.

The condition of the Court has been maintained.

During the latter part of the year, a portion of the Public Exhibition Galleries, including the Gambia Court, was taken over by the Government for temporary occupation by the Ministry of Food. Arrangements are being made for the display elsewhere of a representative collection of Colonial products, in which the exhibits of the Gambia Court will be adequately represented.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	,,
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	,,
952	Leeward Islands	,,
953	St. Vincent	,,
954	Uganda	,,
955	Nyasaland	,,
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	,,
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	,,
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	,,
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	,,
964	Seychelles	,,
965	Weihaiwei	,,
966	Fiji	,,
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	,,
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
971	Ceylon	,,
972	Hong Kong	,,
973	Zanzibar	,,
974	St. Helena	,,
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1034.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 979.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
May, 1920.

LONDON:
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No. 1034.

GAMBIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1918.*

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue collected in 1918 amounted to £133,323, an increase of £15,346 over that for 1917, and £8,328 more than the revenue collected in 1913, which was the highest previously recorded.

The revenue and the amounts collected under each head during the year were as follows:—

(1) Customs Duties	£96,862
(2) Port Dues	932
(3) Licences, &c.	1,891
(4) Fees of Court, &c.	6,967
(5) Post Office	945
(6) Rent of Government Property, excluding rent of land in the Protectorate	513
(7) Interest	5,477
(8) Protectorate	19,035
(9) Miscellaneous	677
(10) Land Sales	20

It will be seen that Customs Duties provided nearly three-quarters of the total revenue for 1918. The amount from this source exceeded that collected in 1917 by £12,104, so that the difference between the total revenue for these two years is accounted for very largely in this way. The receipts from *ad valorem* duties (£41,303) were the largest ever recorded, being nearly £12,000 more than the record amount received in the previous year. The increase is attributable no doubt rather to the increasing value of articles on which an *ad valorem* duty is paid than to larger importations. The import duty on kola nuts and the export duty on groundnuts continue to be by far the most important items of Customs revenue.

Slight decreases in the second, sixth, and ninth heads of revenue mentioned above were much more than counter-balanced by increases under the other heads; by no means inconsiderable increases under the heads, Fees of Court, etc., and Protectorate.

The value of the Colony's investments at the end of the year was £140,275, and the cash balance was £53,370.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861: [Cd. 7622-52.]

2. *Expenditure.*—The Expenditure for the year was £88,703, being less than the revenue by no less than £44,620, less than the estimated expenditure by £9,673, and about £6,000 less than the expenditure for the previous year.

The principal savings resulted from the unavoidable postponement of certain public works due to vacancies in staff and the delay caused by the War in the supply of materials ordered in the United Kingdom. The expenditure for the year followed the normal lines and requires no special explanation.

3. *Financial position.*—The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1917, was £125,816, and on the 31st December, 1918, £193,894. There is no public debt.

The following is a comparative statement of the total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1914	£86,071	£120,921
1915	92,253	89,028
1916	103,075	83,217
1917	117,977	94,519
1918	133,323	88,703

4. *Currency.*—The currency of the Colony consists of West African silver coins (2*s.*, 1*s.*, 6*d.*, 3*d.*), which are rapidly replacing British silver currency.

French five-franc pieces, known locally as "dollars," are accepted by Government and the banks at 3*s.* 10½*d.* (the legal value), although for trade purposes they are worth 4*s.* The circulation of these coins is decreasing rapidly owing to the French Government having prohibited the exportation of them from France.

The shortage of silver coins, due to the world shortage of silver, has been met to a certain extent by the introduction of West African currency notes for £1, 10*s.*, 2*s.*, and 1*s.*

The two banks established in the Colony are the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and the Colonial Bank.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

1. *Volume of Trade.*—The total value of the Colony's trade inwards and outwards (excluding specie) for the year 1918, was £1,802,316, an increase of £152,358, as compared with the previous year.

The following table gives the total value of imports and exports for the last five years, excluding specie.

	Imports.	Exports.
1914	£388,339	£693,658
1915	302,495	430,620
1916	478,805	542,843
1917	697,052	952,906
1918	919,426	882,890

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2. *Imports.*—The total value of imports (exclusive of specie) was greater by £222,374 than in 1917.

The import of most of the principal articles was greater than in 1917. The total quantity of cotton piece-goods imported was 11,023,963 yards valued at £377,973, or an increase in quantity of 1,155,174 yards, and in value of £156,221, as compared with 1917. The United Kingdom supplied more than 95 per cent. of this article.

Other cotton goods were valued at £51,393—an increase of £19,145.

The quantity of rice imported was 36,359 cwts., valued at £70,733. This was 9,791 cwts. less than was imported in 1917, but £9,992 more in value. The United States of America supplied no less than over 93·5 per cent. of the rice imported, although this was only the second year that that country had supplied rice to the Colony. Empty bags which are used in the groundnut trade showed a decrease of 251,877 in number and £6,170 in value as compared with 1917.

The value of hardware imported was £17,835—an increase of £3,238 over 1917.

Kola nuts weighing 1,698,506 lbs. and valued at £130,051 were imported from the neighbouring Colony of Sierra Leone; constituting a record for both quantity and value imported. The quantity imported exceeded the previous highest recorded, that for 1916, by 259,872 lbs. and the value that for 1917 by £17,179.

3,885 cwts. of wheaten flour, valued at £7,927 was imported, while in 1917 the quantity was 4,946 cwts., and the value £7,995.

The value of provisions imported was £8,670, a decrease of £637, as compared with 1917.

Tobacco weighing 183,580 lbs., and worth £13,259 was imported, an increase of 38,327 lbs. in weight and £5,195 in value compared with 1917.

The quantity of spirits imported in 1918 was 9,479 gallons, as against 13,497 gallons in 1917. The value, however, of the spirits imported in 1918 was only £88 less than that of the spirits imported in the previous year.

There was a decrease in the importation of sugar. The quantity imported in 1918 was 2,518 cwts., valued at £7,866, a decrease of 1,458 cwts., and £1,704 in value, as compared with 1917. 95 per cent. of the supplies came from Brazil, the United States of America, and Portuguese Possessions. The latter and Brazil, which supplied the largest quantity, appeared for the first time on the list of countries supplying sugar to the Colony.

The United Kingdom continued to be the chief source of supply, accounting for over 58 per cent. of the imports, excluding specie. The United States of America just ousted the British Colonies from second place, their percentage being 15·4, and 15·3 respectively. In 1917 the British Colonies supplied 19 per cent. and the United States of America 7 per cent. of the imports. France and its possessions.

which in 1917 had supplied 12 per cent. of the imports, in 1918 only supplied 7·7 per cent.

3. *Specie.*—The total value of specie imported was £538,588. It consisted entirely of British coins owing to the fact that the exportation of French five-franc pieces had been prohibited by the French Government.

The export of specie during the year amounted to £217,320, being composed of British coins to the value of £216,000, and French five-franc pieces to the value of £1,320. The value of the latter coins taken across the border into French territory cannot be calculated.

4. *Exports.*—The total value of the exports, exclusive of specie, was £70,016 less than in 1917.

The principal exports during the year were 56,489 tons of groundnuts, valued at £800,319 ; 644 tons of palm kernels, valued at £9,800 ; and 85,103 hides, valued at £51,520.

The groundnut crop of 1917–18 was only an average one, but good prices were obtained, and the value of the shipments made in 1918 was only £69,471 less than the value of the shipments made in the previous year, although there were 17,811 tons less exported in 1918 than in 1917.

Over 96 per cent. of the quantity of groundnuts exported went to the United Kingdom.

Similarly over 96 per cent. of the hides exported went to the United Kingdom. The export of hides was less than in 1917, being 85,103, valued at £51,520, as against 101,120, valued at £58,951, in that year.

The export of palm kernels increased slightly both in quantity and in value, in 1918, being 644 tons, valued at £9,800,as against 532 tons valued at £7,994 in 1917. The quantity exported in 1918 was shared almost equally between France and its possessions and the United Kingdom.

The trade in calabashes (gourds) which is done almost entirely with Sierra Leone continues to increase and its value in 1918 was £2,610.

Piassava.—26 tons of piassava, valued at £930, were exported in 1918, as against 15 tons valued at £550 exported in the previous year.

Of the total exports nearly 94 per cent. went to the United Kingdom. Slightly less than 3 per cent. went to France and its possessions. In 1917 the figures were 79 per cent. and 18 per cent. respectively. The groundnut crop which in pre-War days went nearly all to France was in 1918 shipped almost entirely to the United Kingdom.

5. *Shipping.*—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1918 was 412, with an aggregate tonnage of 282,066, a decrease of 43 vessels and 116,458 tons, as compared with 1917.

The number of steam vessels and sailing vessels entered was respectively 81 and 122 ; and of those cleared 87 were steam vessels and 122 sailing vessels. Of the steam vessels entered and cleared 122 out of

168, *i.e.*, 70 per cent., were British; while the tonnage of the British ships exceeded that of foreign ships by no less than 250,491 tons. Of the sailing vessels entered and cleared 88, with a tonnage of 2,214, were British, and 156, with a tonnage of 9,221, were foreign.

6. *Land Grants.*—Grants of land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance, No. 5 of 1902. No Crown Grants are made for a longer period than 21 years as a rule either in the Colony or in the Protectorate. The filling in of the Half Die area of Bathurst is gradually rendering habitable the swamp at the back of the town. The land is the property of the Crown and the demand for it is keen.

The value of land in Bathurst in the business quarter of the town, especially where there is access to the river front, is very high, and has increased appreciably in recent years.

Grants of land for periods of 21 years are made at the trading centres in the Protectorate where groundnuts are collected. The rates charged vary from £1 to £4 per 1,000 square yards, according to the situation and the facilities which exist for shipping produce in ocean-going steamers. The latter are not able to travel further up the Gambia than MacCarthy Island. The area granted is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards. The number of these grants has increased considerably and has advanced *pari passu* with the growth of trade.

7. *Agriculture.*—Groundnuts are by far the most important agricultural product of the Colony. They are the Colony's sole export of any importance, and hence the source of its prosperity. The nuts are planted at the beginning of the rainy season, in June and July; and are gathered in November after the rains are over. They are exported during the next six or eight months in the ordinary course of events. The scarcity of shipping due to war conditions has led to the exportation of the groundnuts being spread over a larger portion of the year.

The Government is obliged to purchase through the merchants a certain quantity of the best of the crop, and this is distributed on credit to the native planters, who pay for it through their native chiefs from the produce of the next harvest. This is necessary because the native planters do not retain a sufficiently large portion of the crop for seed for the following season, and also to meet the requirements of the immigrant "strange farmers," who, of course, have no seed to plant.

The satisfactory quality of the coming crop is ensured as far as possible by this change of seed.

Attention is also given by the natives of the Protectorate to growing food crops the chief of which consist of various kinds of corn.

Considerable areas are sown with rice in those districts where the swampy nature of the ground is best suited for the crop.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were passed during the year. The most important of these dealt with Motor Traffic, Wharves, and the issue of Currency Notes.

Most of the firms have wharves at the various riverine ports and legislation was introduced to regularise the legal position of these wharves and to provide for the licensing of all existing wharves and any which may be erected subsequently.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are altogether eight elementary schools in the Colony, six in Bathurst, and two at MacCarthy Island. Of these one is owned and managed by the Anglican Mission, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, three by the Wesleyan Mission, and one by the Mohammedan community in Bathurst. There are no Government schools.

The number of pupils on the registers of the elementary schools of the Colony during 1918 was 1,473, *i.e.*, 98 more than in 1917.

The number of pupils at the Anglican School in 1917 was 235; at the three Roman Catholic Schools, 538; at the three Wesleyan Schools, 592; and at the Mohammedan School, 108. Attendance is voluntary.

The schools are attended by boys and girls together, except in the case of two of the Roman Catholic Schools, one of which, the Convent School, is for girls only, the other for boys only.

All these elementary schools, except the Mohammedan School, are affiliated under the Education Ordinance No. 14 of 1903, and receive aid from the funds of the Colony in accordance with the rules made under that Ordinance. This aid takes the form of contributions towards the salaries of European superintendents, grants based on the average attendance, and on the results of an annual examination conducted by the Government Inspector of Schools, prizes for success in this Examination, and bonuses to teachers.

In accordance with the rules referred to above, an examination of native teachers is also held by the Government Inspector, and certificates are given, also small monetary awards.

The curriculum of the schools is prescribed by the owners, but as a considerable part of their income is derived from grants based on the results of the annual Government Examination the subjects taught are in fact chiefly determined by the above-mentioned rules under which the examination is held.

In addition to Government grants the income of the schools is derived from school fees, which may not exceed 6d. per week for each pupil, and from contributions by the owners.

The total expenditure of the affiliated schools in 1918 was £1,878, of which £1,296 was contributed by Government.

The Mohammedan School was attended in 1918 by 108 pupils, 27 less than in the previous year. The school presents candidates for the same annual examination as the other schools, but the financial aid which it receives from Government is not determined by the results of the examination. The salaries of the teachers are paid by Government, prizes are given, and a sum is voted annually in the Estimates for the upkeep of the buildings and furniture of the school.

In 1918 the vote for the payment of salaries and prizes was £200, and for the upkeep of buildings and furniture, £30. The rest of the revenue of the school consists of school fees, amounting to £3 2*s.* 8*d.*, and an annual contribution of £20 from the Mohammedan community.

In addition to the English subjects offered by candidates from this school at the annual general examination, pupils are instructed in Arabic and in the Koran, and are examined annually by the Cadi of the Mohammedan Court.

A Technical and Industrial School is maintained by the Wesleyan Mission, and instruction is given by a European instructor in such subjects as carpentry, masonry, joinery, and blacksmith's work. There were 16 pupils in 1918. The school receives Government aid in the form of an annual contribution of £350 towards the salary of the European instructor. Prizes based on the results of an annual examination, held by an examiner whom the Governor appoints, are also given by Government.

The school derives a considerable revenue from payment for work done for members of the public. In 1918 this sum amounted to £429. The expenditure of the school was £840.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society also maintains the only Secondary School in the Colony, which is managed by the Society independently of Government aid or control, and derives its revenue entirely from contributions from members of the Wesleyan community and from school fees. In 1918 there were 39 pupils at this school. Its expenditure was £206.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

1. *Hospitals and Medical Institutions.*—The total number of persons admitted to the Victoria Hospital, Bathurst, during 1918, was between 400 and 500. The daily average number of patients was 11·5. There were 58 deaths. Out-patients were attended to 7,798 times, and 23 operations were performed. No structural alterations were made in the hospital during the year. The number of Medical Officers and of European nursing sisters at work in the Colony was throughout the year less than normal in consequence of the absence of members of the staff on Active Service.

The only hospital in the Protectorate is at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island. No Medical Officer was available to take charge of this hospital, but periodical visits were made by the Senior Medical Officer, and a certificated native dispenser resided there. There were 33 persons admitted in 1918, and out-patients were attended on 1,250 occasions. There were 7 deaths.

During 1918 no case was admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, which is situated about 2 miles out of Bathurst.

At the Home for Destitutes in Bathurst, 9 persons remained at the end of 1917. There were 20 admissions during 1918, 3 persons were discharged, and 14 died, leaving 12 remaining at the end of the year.

These four institutions were maintained during 1918 with the whole of the Medical Staff at a total cost of £7,193.

2. *Government Savings Bank.*—A Government Savings Bank is managed by the Treasury both at Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island. There were 529 depositors with £4,771 to their credit at the end of 1918.

The amount of invested funds is £5,000. Interest on deposits is paid at 2½ per cent. There are no expenses of management.

3. *Victoria Recreation Ground, MacCarthy Square.*—The Victoria Recreation Ground was formerly controlled by a Board of Management of eight members appointed annually by the Governor. The Board, however, was divested of their ownership and control by an Ordinance passed in 1917, which vested the ownership of the land in the Crown and the control in the Board of Health.

VI.—JUDICIAL AND CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

1. Supreme Court.

There were 20 persons prosecuted in the Supreme Court, 17 of whom were convicted. 12 convictions for larceny and cattle stealing, 1 for other offences against property, 1 for rape, 2 for other offences against the person, and one for an offence classed as Miscellaneous. The small number of cases brought before the Supreme Court affords striking evidence of the rarity of serious crime.

2. Bathurst Police Court.

During 1918, 423 cases were brought before the Court, as compared with 564 in 1917. Of these 357 were summarily convicted, 20 were committed for trial by the Supreme Court, and 46 were discharged. About one-third of these cases were prosecutions for offences against laws dealing with sanitation, and especially those aimed at the extermination of mosquitos. A decrease of about 80 cases in this class of offence as compared with 1917 would appear to show that the inhabitants of the town have a growing appreciation of the importance of sanitary measures and of the benefits derived therefrom. There were 66 cases of larceny.

The total number of summary convictions was 169 less than in 1917.

3. Protectorate Courts (Native Tribunals).

The number of cases brought before the native Tribunals was 460, a decrease of 11, as compared with the number in 1917. In all but four of the cases the accused persons were convicted. Disobedience of the orders of Chiefs, seductions, and offences against the person, not of a serious character, are the most common cases. In nearly 90 per cent. of these cases the punishment was by fine without imprisonment. This clearly shows the remarkable absence of serious crime in the Protectorate, as well as the quiet temper and the law-abiding nature of the Protectorate population.

4. Prisons.

Thirty-six prisoners remained in the gaol at the beginning of 1918, and 132 were admitted during the year. At the end of 1918, 35 remained. The daily average was 50, as compared with 45·57 in 1917. The number of admissions was greater by 30 than in 1917.

The health of the prisoners was satisfactory.

Prison labour was employed on public works and on works within the prison of an estimated value of £503. The total cost of the maintenance of the prison, without deducting the estimated cost of the prison labour, was £1,683. The larger number of prisoners and the rise in the price of food and clothing are reflected in the cost of this institution.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND CLIMATE.

1. Vital Statistics.

No figures or reliable estimates are available as regards the total native population since the census of 1911. In that year the total population of Bathurst was given as 7,700, and that of the Protectorate as 138,401. It is probable that the population of Bathurst has increased but little since 1911. There is good reason to believe that the population of the Protectorate is at least 30 per cent. greater than that given in the 1911 census return. No accurate information is obtainable with regard to births and deaths in the Protectorate.

The total number of Europeans resident was 122, of whom 112 were males and 10 females. There were 6 deaths among the Europeans, all from pneumonia and influenza, and no births.

Two were invalided, both of whom were unofficials. No official was invalided.

The native population of Bathurst was estimated to be 7,700, or about 230 above the native population in 1911. The number of births was 263, and the number of deaths 550. The birth-rate was

34·1 per thousand, and the death-rate 71·4. The increased number of deaths was due to the influenza epidemic which swept over the whole coast in the latter months of the year.

Infantile mortality was at even a higher figure than usual. Out of a total number of 263 births there were 50 still-births, and 138 deaths of infants of less than one year in age. There were also 89 deaths of children over one year old and under five years of age.

Eighteen Christian marriages were solemnised in Bathurst and MacCarthy Island.

2. Public Health.

As usual, malarial fever was the most prevalent disease. 118 of 506 cases treated in the hospital in Bathurst were cases of this illness, and out of 7,798 occasions on which out-patients were attended, malarial fever was treated 771 times. These figures are somewhat less than those for 1917.

There was no case of yellow fever, small-pox, or plague during 1918. There was one case of typhoid fever in 1918 which, however, owing to a relapse proved to be very serious and prolonged. Pneumonia, a common disease in the Colony at certain seasons, was more prevalent than usual.

The influenza epidemic was very serious. It began in September and lasted about four weeks, with the result that 6 Europeans and 317 natives died in Bathurst. It is estimated that there were 7,800 deaths in the Protectorate from influenza.

The sanitation of Bathurst is in the care of the Board of Health, a body consisting of 4 ex-officio members, and not more than 6 others nominated by the Governor.

A sum of £4,922 was spent by the Board in 1918 on its work and on the emoluments of its staff.

The improvement in the sanitation of the town continues, as is indicated by a further decline in the specimens of mosquito larvae found. 149 were found in 1918, as compared with 238 in 1917, 265 in 1916, 622 in 1915, and no less than 1,036 in 1914.

3. Climate.

There are two Meteorological Stations in the Colony, one in Bathurst, and one at MacCarthy Island, distant from Bathurst about 150 miles.

Rain fell in Bathurst on 64 days between the 30th May and the 18th October. The total rainfall for 1918 was 54·03 inches; this was no less than 16·35 inches more than in 1917.

Indeed the rainfall was greatly in excess of the average for the past ten years, which is 33·45 inches.

The highest recorded temperature was 101 degrees on the 2nd April, and also on the 20th May; and the lowest, 48 degrees on the 16th March. The highest mean temperature in any month was reached in February, being 93 degrees, and the lowest in February and also in December, being 55·1 degrees.

At MacCarthy Island rain fell between the 2nd May and the 4th October, the total being 49·27 inches or 3·33 inches more than in 1917. The highest recorded temperature was 112 degrees in May, and the lowest 54 degrees in December. The highest mean temperature was 88 degrees in May and the lowest 76·5 in December.

VIII.—POSTAL, CABLE, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal Service.

The usual mail service between the Colony and the United Kingdom is by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's steamers, in normal times at intervals of about two weeks. Towards this service the Colony pays an annual contribution of £73. War conditions have increased the intervals between mails very considerably, and have made regularity impossible.

During periods of the year when the export of groundnuts is in progress, communication with Dakar is frequent, and from there both to France and to the United Kingdom by the groundnut steamers, as well as by others which do not call at this Colony. There are two Post Offices in the Colony, one in Bathurst, and one at MacCarthy Island. The total revenue of the Post Office in 1918 was £945, being £43 more than in 1917. The expenditure was £902.

Cable Service.

The African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, maintains the only cable telegraph station in the Colony. There is no inland telegraph.

Telephone Service.

The Government maintains a telephone service between Government Offices and certain outlying stations.

IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The activities of the Colony progressed satisfactorily during the year. The uncertainty as to trade prospects felt in the early part of the War disappeared entirely. The signing of the Armistice in November, 1918, has given rise to bright hopes as to the future. Foodstuffs from outside the Colony have been both scarce and expensive. A measure of food control, aimed at controlling the prices of the principal articles of food, the prices being revised from time to time, has been in operation throughout the year. Wages, however, have risen, and the price paid for groundnuts locally has been a good deal higher than usual.

The most memorable features of the year have been the influenza epidemic, which took such a heavy toll of the native population, and the exceptional heaviness of the rains.

The population continued to exhibit their loyalty and interest in the War by contributing generously to all War funds which were brought to their notice, although the greatly enhanced cost of living left the majority with but little to spare.

B. A. FINN,

Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia.

29th February, 1920.

APPENDIX.

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute during the Year 1918 for the Colony of the Gambia.

Economic Investigations.

Reports on three sets of mineral samples were furnished by the Imperial Institute during 1918, as the result of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Research Department. The results are summarised below.

Samples of aluminous minerals from Kossoun Hill were forwarded for examination with a view to ascertaining whether any of them were bauxitic in character. The results of the examination showed, however, that the samples were argillaceous and not bauxitic, and it is therefore unlikely that bauxite will be found in the beds from which these samples were obtained.

Seven samples of clays and limestones concretions, stated to have been collected on the left bank of the River Gambia, at a distance of about one mile from Yarbutenda, were examined in order to determine their character and possible value. It was thought in the Gambia that the concretions might be suitable for the preparation of agricultural lime, but this proved not to be the case. The clays might be used for making bricks and tiles, and in conjunction with the concretions for cement making.

Three samples of auriferous sand were also examined but were not of promising character, as the best example contained only 1 grain of gold per ton. The free gold was, moreover, in a very finely divided condition and would be difficult to recover from the sand.

Economic Enquiries.

A number of enquiries relating to the products, industries and imports of the Gambia were dealt with by the Technical Information Bureau during the course of the year.

These related to such subjects as palm nut cracking machines, groundnuts and other oil seeds, groundnut oil, jute cultivation, and timber.

General information relating to the resources, industries, and trade of the Colony has also been supplied to enquirers.

Gambia Court.

The Court is in occupation by the War Office, but representations have been made with a view to its early release.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony, &c.	Year
1000	Zanzibar	1918
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	"
1025	Cyprus	"
1026	British Hondu as	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	"
1030	Nigeria	"
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1034.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1920.

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No. 1053.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1919.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

1. *Geographical.*—The Gambia is the most northerly of the British West African Dependencies. It consists of the territory on the banks of the River Gambia, which flows approximately due west falling into the Atlantic Ocean in latitude 13°24′ North and longitude 16°36′ West at almost the most westerly point of Africa.

2. The Colony is surrounded on the north, east, and south by the French Colony of Senegal. The French country to the south is itself a strip between British and Portuguese territory.

3. *Area and population.*—The area of the Gambia is 4,132 square miles, that is to say, rather larger than Cornwall and Devon together. The population is estimated at about 240,000, of whom 8,000 live in the capital—Bathurst—at the mouth of the river. The inhabitants belong to a number of tribes with widely differing racial characteristics and speaking different languages. English is confined to about one-half of the inhabitants of Bathurst, who are the educated Christian West Africans known to Europe. The remainder of the population of the Colony and Protectorate are mainly Mohammedans—the chief tribes being the Mandingos (about one half of the total), Fullas, Jollofs, Sarahulis, and Jolas. The latter are pagans and are described as uncivilised. The Jollofs claim a very ancient descent, which is borne out by their striking features of an Egyptian type.

The European population of the Gambia is less than 200, composed of officials, traders, and a few missionaries.

4. *Historical.*—The first descriptive accounts of the Gambia River date from the middle of the 15th century, when Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the river in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some forty miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition fitted out in 1481 was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the charter which was made in 1591 is described in Hakluyt. The French, it appears, had then traded in these parts for above

thirty years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia which is a river of secret trade and riches concealled by the Portugals." The power of Portugal was then on the wane, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

5. The first permanent British settlement in West Africa was made in about 1620 on an island now known as James Island, 35 miles up the Gambia River. The French made numerous attempts to capture the island and were on one occasion able to hold it for two years until it was handed back at the Peace of Ryswick in 1697. The English in turn raided St. Louis and Goree, in Senegal—the latter place lying in the harbour of Dakar. Senegal was in the hands of Great Britain from 1760 to 1779 and again during the Napoleonic wars. A clause in the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 finally confirmed England in her possession of "Fort James" and the "River Gambia." Albreda, a French factory on the north bank of the river near St. James's Island, was, however, reserved for the French. From 1664 an annual grant of £10,000 had been made by the Crown in subsidy of the Royal African Company and their successors, who owned the settlement. Mr. Golberry, an officer in the French service, estimated the trade of the Gambia in 1786 at about £260,000 per annum.

6. In 1807 the abolition of the Slave Trade (which was followed in later years by the repatriation of captured slaves) brought economic ruin on the settlement, and the Government subsidy was increased to £23,000 annually.

7. By the Treaty of Paris in 1814 England evacuated Goree. British merchants and a few French traders from Senegal who wished to remain under the British flag formed a settlement under the charge of Colonel Brereton on a sandy spit at the point of St. Mary's Island, at the mouth of the Gambia, in 1816. This was first, it is said, known as Leopold, and afterwards, in 1823, the name of Bathurst (after the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department) was given to it by Sir Charles M'Carthy, Governor of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was controlled from Sierra Leone from 1807. That place was eventually selected in 1821 as the seat of the Government of all the British settlements on the West Coast.

8. The history of the Gambia during the 19th century is a record of the gradual extension of settled government along the banks of the River. It was not, however, until comparatively late in the nineteenth century that the limits of the Colony and Protectorate were settled between Great Britain and France. In 1857 the latter country gave up Albreda in exchange for certain British rights in Senegal, and the river then became wholly British for 300 miles from the mouth. The boundary agreement signed in 1889 restricted the British Territory to a breadth of about 30 miles for the first 70 miles from the sea and thereafter to a strip ten kilometres wide on each bank of the river. The work of delimitating the boundary was concluded in 1899.

9. *Administration.*—The Gambia was made an independent Crown Colony in 1843. From 1866 to 1888 it was a portion of the Government of the West African Settlements. In the latter year it again became,

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and has since remained, a separate Government. The administration of the Gambia is of the usual Crown Colony type with a Governor and an Executive and Legislative Council, the latter being composed of officials with an unofficial nominated element.

The Colony outside of Bathurst is administered on the Protectorate system. The Protectorate is divided into five provinces under Commissioners, who travel continuously through their provinces for eight months in the year, hearing complaints, redressing grievances and collecting taxes. The direct taxes amount to 4*s.* only per annum for each compound containing not more than four houses or huts. All administrative and judicial functions are centred in the Commissioners. Each province is divided into a number of districts with Head Chiefs over each, who are appointed by the Governor, after the wishes of the people have been ascertained. Headmen of towns are appointed by the Commissioners. There is a Native Tribunal in each district, composed, in addition to the Head Chief who presides, of four or five of the leading inhabitants with powers of trial and punishment. Appeals lie in all cases from the judgment of the tribunals to the Commissioner, and from the Commissioner to the Supreme Court. All native laws and customs which are neither inconsistent with English law nor repugnant to natural justice are taken cognizance of and enforced.

10. *Industry.*—There are no mines in the Colony. Iron ore exists in large quantities, but it has hitherto not been found to be worth exportation.

Boat-building and repairing by native shipwrights is done on a comparatively large scale. Most of the cutters used in the ground-nut trade have been built locally from local materials.

The chief industry is farming. The ground-nut is the staple article of cultivation, but the people grow sufficient corn, millet, and rice to be self-supporting in a good year.

There are leather and iron workers, goldsmiths and weavers in many villages. Basket-making and pottery is also carried on, but there is no export of these articles. There were large herds of privately-owned cattle in the Protectorate until 1917, when it is estimated that not less than 80 per cent. were killed off by an outbreak of rinderpest or an allied disease.

11. *Climate.*—The climate of the Gambia is less unpleasant than that of the other West African Colonies, though it does not follow that it is more healthy. The mean temperature is 77° with a mean daily range of 15°. The absolute range in Bathurst is between 55° and 105°. Rain falls between June and October; for some cause which has not hitherto been explained, the average annual fall is diminishing. For the decades 1887–1896, 1897–1906, 1907–1916 the average was 54, 48 and 39 inches respectively. In 1917 the fall was 37·68 inches, in 1918, 54.03 and in 1919, 39·23. For about one-half of the year the North East trade blows.

12. *Health and Vital Statistics.*—As in other West African Colonies, considerable attention has been paid to the Medical and Sanitary Departments of Government. Comparatively large sums have been disbursed in the endeavour to make Bathurst healthy, and the conditions of living have markedly improved. The death-rate in Bathurst was 35·28 in 1919. The total number of deaths registered was 299,

against 234 births. No vital statistics for the Protectorate are available.

Malaria has decreased considerably, but venereal disease, tuberculosis and amoebic dysentery are stated to be on the increase.

The tsetse fly abounds in many parts of the Protectorate. The natives appear to have become immune to a great extent. Four cases of sleeping sickness and two deaths were reported in Bathurst in 1919.

13. *General.*—The Gambia has many natural advantages. It is the nearest to England of all her tropical dependencies. Steamers drawing up to 24 feet can enter the river at all states of the tide in safety. The harbour, which is above Bathurst, is without its equal on the West African Coast. The river, which is tidal for 300 miles, forms an unrivalled waterway. Steamers with a draught of 18 feet can proceed for about 120 miles, and for a further 50 miles if drawing under 12 feet. There are also several creeks which are navigable for ocean-going steamers. Buoys have been found unnecessary in the main river.

14. Some 60,000 tons of ground-nuts are exported annually. As it is estimated that not less than 640,000 acres of cultivable soil are available for ground-nut plantation, there is scope for considerable development of the agricultural wealth of the Colony.

15. The valley of the Gambia is rich in deposits of iron ore, ochres and china clay. An unlimited quantity of the former can be shipped direct from river cliffs into ocean-going vessels. It is, however, of poor quality owing to the large admixture of silica.

16. The entrance of the river is not at present lighted, and the Government and private wharves are not suited to the requirements of the Colony. Proposals for opening the approaches to the harbour for navigation at any time of the day or night by lighted buoys, and for building a wharf of considerable size have been under consideration for a long time and are likely to take practical form at an early date.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

17. The Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years have been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Assets over Liabilities.
	£	£	£
1915	92,253	89,028	105,959
1916	103,075	83,218	125,816
1917	117,977	94,519	149,274
1918	133,324	88,703	193,894
1919	180,585	143,451	231,028

18. There is no Public Debt.

Approximately 75 per cent. of the revenue is derived from Customs Duties, the main sources in 1919 being £50,000 from ad valorem duties, £29,000 from the duty on kola nuts, and £22,000 from the export duty of 6*s.* 8*d.* a ton on ground-nuts. The general ad valorem duty is 7½ per cent.; boots and shoes, jewellery and perfumery pay 10 per cent., and food 5 per cent.

19. The flourishing state of the finances of the Colony is not altogether satisfactory, as while they have been built up, there has been no corresponding expenditure in the development of the resources of the country. This arises mainly from the necessity for restricting expenditure during the war years, and the unwillingness of the Administration to make demands on the priority authorities for machinery and building material. The position is that a great deal of leeway has to be made up if the Gambia is not to retrograde, much more if it is to progress.

III.—PROGRESS OF TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

(*a*) Trade.

20. *Trade.*—The progress of trade during the last five years has been remarkable. The figures are as follows:—

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports ..	521,151	884,553	991,626	1,458,014	1,250,320
Exports ..	595,797	705,546	1,046,503	1,100,210	1,553,521
Total	1,116,948	1,590,099	2,038,129	2,558,224	2,803,841

Excluding specie, the total trade returns show in:—

1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
£	£	£	£	£
733,115	1,021,646	1,649,957	1,802,316	2,409,561

During the above period, specie to the value of £565,808 has been imported in excess of the quantity exported.

21. The trading business of the Colony is now practically entirely in the hands of agencies. The principals have head-quarters in England or France, with local representatives. A list of the chief firms with their European addresses is printed as an appendix to this report.

22. The profits made by the merchants in recent years have undoubtedly been large, and should continue so, but there are difficulties in the way of opening a new business. Considerable capital is necessary, and there are few available sites for further buildings and wharves at Bathurst.

23. *Imports.*—The total import trade in 1919 was valued at £1,179,640, excluding specie, the value given being that at the port of export. Of this trade the value of cotton piece goods and articles of cotton manufacture was £335,570. Kola nuts (from Sierra Leone) account for £157,000, rice for £104,101, tobacco, £53,710, hardware, £47,765.

24. The course of the import trade during the last five years has been in the following percentage proportions:—

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
United Kingdom	53	41	58	58	57
British Possessions	21	15	19	15	14
France and French possessions ..	19	27	12	8	8
United States of America ..	4	4	7	16	19
Other Countries	3	3	4	3	2

25. America has made, and is making, a strong effort to secure a substantial share of the West African trade. She has in the last few years captured as large a share in the Gambia trade as Germany had before the War, with two per cent. more.

26. The value of imports from America has been as follows:—

1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
£	£	£	£	£
12,322	18,075	50,487	141,873	235,548

This is the more remarkable as there are no exports from the Gambia to the United States.

27. The principal imports from America are rice, sugar, flour, fuel oils, timber and perfumery, hardware and leaf tobacco. Of these, all except the last two could be procured from India and Canada with advantage, if direct shipment could be arranged. Hardware manufacturers in the United Kingdom should endeavour to secure the trade which has passed from German firms. The value of the commodities imported under this head during 1919 was £47,764, shared equally between England and America.

28. *Exports.*—Of the export trade value of £1,229,921, ground-nuts are responsible for £1,172,843. The balance of £57,078 is made up of palm kernels, value £15,324, hides, £8,419, calabashes, £5,253, and a few minor products and articles not the produce of the Colony, valued at £28,082.

29. The exports of ground-nuts and palm kernels during the past five years have been as follows:—

	1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Ground Nuts	96,152	£400,435	46,366	£506,093	74,300	£869,790	56,490	£800,319	70,270	£1,154,429
Palm Kernels	326	£5,457	669	£14,671	532	£7,994	646	£9,799	671	£15,324

30. During the half-century prior to 1916, the ground-nut trade came mainly into French hands, though Germany was in the years immediately preceding the War securing an increasing share. In 1913 the proportion was 58·37 per cent. to France, 24·56 per cent. to Germany and 6·72 per cent. to the United Kingdom and British Possessions. In 1914 France took 78·08 per cent. of the trade and Great Britain 9·40 per cent. War restrictions diverted the produce to the United Kingdom. Four English firms entered the business, and in 1919 Great Britain took no less a portion than 91·44 per cent., British Possessions, 1·72 per cent., the balance going to France, 2·59 per cent., and Denmark 4·24 per cent.

31. Gum, ivory, wax and rubber have practically disappeared from the export trade list. Gold also figured at one time, but, like ivory, it did not originate from British territory.

32. Manufacturers and importers of oilseeds in the United Kingdom who wish to get into touch with the Gambia trade should apply either direct to the principals of the various firms or to the Receiver General of the Colony, who is the Honorary Trade Correspondent of the Board

of Trade. There is a local Chamber of Commerce affiliated to the London Chamber of Commerce.

33. Individuals who wish to apply for employment in the Gambia as mechanics, clerks, etc., should address themselves to the head-quarters of the firms in England or France.

(*b*) Agriculture.

34. As the whole prosperity of the Colony is dependent on agriculture, too much attention cannot be paid to the needs of the Colony in this direction.

35. Climatic conditions and the lightness of the soil make the Protectorate particularly suited for ground-nut cultivation. Attempts have been made from time to time to introduce a second crop to fall back upon if necessary; these have failed beyond the point of proving that other products can be raised successfully. So long as ground-nuts pay the people best this will not change.

36. *Ground-nuts.*—The ground-nut industry is on a very simple basis. There are no middlemen. The nuts are grown entirely by individual native farmers who sell direct to the merchant. The latter is in some cases the agent of the manufacturer in England or France. The crop is planted at the beginning of the rains in June or July. The Government supplies on an average about 1,000 tons of seed annually to supplement seed taken from the previous crop and furnished by merchants to their customers. Fresh selected seed nuts are at intervals purchased from Senegal in order to maintain the quality. About one and one-eighth bushels of seeds are planted per acre and this produces a crop of up to 45 bushels. The crop is lifted in November; the whole plant is pulled up from the ground and dried in stacks; the nuts are then beaten off with sticks. The planter keeps the nuts until the price offered by the merchants' dealers is high enough to suit his liking, unless he requires money urgently. The nuts are transported by donkey and head loads to the river towns where the trading stations are situated. After setting aside enough to pay taxes and for seed-nuts or rice bought from Government before the farming commenced, the greater part of the money received is expended in buying cotton goods, etc., from the merchants—usually from those who have bought the nuts.

37. *Strange farmers.*—A large proportion of the nuts produced in the Gambia are planted by "strange farmers" who come from East, North and South—sometimes long distances—from French and Portuguese territory. These farmers clear and plant the land allotted to them. They are fed and housed. In return they either work two days a week for their landlords and give him one-tenth of the produce of the land or work for three days and retain the whole. The landlord benefits further by getting a cleared area for his farm in the following year. The "strange farmer" usually returns to his home as soon as his crop has been harvested and sold. These immigrants number as many as 20,000 annually.

38. There has fortunately been, so far, little disease of the nuts to endanger the industry. The periodical introduction of fresh seed, the single annual crop, the fact of allowing the ground to revert periodically to bush and the enrichment of the soil by allowing herds of cattle to

wander at will over the farms after the harvest has been taken up, have all tended to keep the produce healthy.

39. *Cotton.*—In 1860 it was estimated that some 220 tons of cotton were grown. The planting of cotton decreased with the spread of the area under cultivation for ground-nuts and the introduction of English cloths and yarns. Many of the weavers use the latter for making the so-called native cloths and very little cotton is grown now. In 1903 and 1904 energetic measures were taken to encourage cotton-growing, and large quantities of American and Egyptian seed were distributed. The experiment failed and Mr. Dudgeon, Superintendent of Agriculture, reported in 1906 that he considered that "there was very little chance of cotton-growing being established in the Colony on a commercial basis owing to the unsuitability of the climate for cotton-growing on a large scale."

40. *Rubber.*—Rubber was formerly exported from the Gambia to some extent. The highest point was reached in 1896 when 503,235 lbs. of the local value of £29,670 were exported. Rubber plants were not cultivated, the collectors tapping the wild Landolphia vine all the year round. The rubber produced was, when washed, worth about one third less than hard Para rubber. The export at present is negligible. The vine may have been killed off by the system of tapping, by the annual bush fires or by the increase of the land taken up for ground-nuts.

41. The difficulty in the way of growing other crops commercially lies in the absence of rain for seven months in the year. The possibilities of providing water for irrigation on a large scale were studied in 1903 by Mr. H. Parker. Good land for irrigating with a gentle gradient extends down the valley below Simoto stream in the Upper River, where there is a small resident population. On the lower river there is a comparatively large area with access at Ballanghar to ocean-going steamers, which is a suitable site for irrigation.

42. A single crop of ground-nuts and food crops only is harvested in the year, the ground lying fallow in the dry season. The farmers have an established rotation of crops which varies in different districts. After three or four years the ground reverts to bush for two or three years.

43. *Other crops.*—The staple food of the people is cereals, maize, guinea corn and millet, or varieties of these are the chief crops. A fair quantity of rice is also grown, particularly in the river flats. Among minor crops are sweet potatoes, cassava and beans. Oranges, mangoes, and pawpaws do well; there are few other fruit trees.

44. The land is all hand worked. Attempts have been made to introduce light ploughs and to encourage the people in the use of modern methods. These have failed—probably owing to the absence of an Agricultural Department in the Colony, which would ensure the application of that steady pressure over a number of years which is alone of any value in the endeavour to educate natives—above all where farmers are concerned.

45. *Timber.*—No timber is exported. Rhun palms, rosewood and mahogany are all utilized for local industries—shipbuilding, wharf-making, etc.; but these trees are not found in large quantities. The quality of the latter two was reported in 1908 by the Imperial Institute to be unsuitable for the European market.

IV.—LAND.

46. Land in the Protectorate may be said to be held communally. Each individual has as much land as he and his household can cultivate. In thickly populated districts it is on occasion necessary for some of the inhabitants to migrate for farming purposes to other parts of the Province or Protectorate, where they are treated in the same manner as the "strange farmers" alluded to in paragraph 37. They return to their districts after having sold their crop of ground-nuts.

47. *Public Lands.*—All lands in the Protectorate which were not in actual occupation at the time when protection was established are regarded as public lands. They are controlled and granted or leased by the Government. A few freehold grants of lands of moderate sized areas were made in the latter part of the 19th century in the neighbourhood of Bathurst, and small plots were, down to 1913, granted in fee simple or leased for building and trading purposes for periods of 99 years. The present rule is, however, that no leases shall be allowed for a longer term than 21 years. Such leases or grants, as they are called, are usually given at suitable spots on the banks of the river for trading factories. The maximum area is 6,000 square yards, and the rent runs from £1 to £4 per annum per 1,000 square yards, dependent as the land is situated inland or in places where ocean-going steamers can go alongside to take in cargo.

The total rental value of lands in the Protectorate in 1919 was £2,096. The number of new grants issued in that year was 32.

48. *Concessions.*—No concessions of lands have yet been granted to Europeans, nor have definite applications for areas been received. In 1916 a Company secured a concession to cut piassava along the river banks. Owing to a fall in the value of the fibre, operations were not carried on in 1919. A mineral prospecting and mining lease in the Upper River was granted in 1912 for 99 years. The work of exploration was chiefly directed to the search for payable gold, silver and iron ores. The concessionaire continued his researches for nine years and sent numerous specimens to the Imperial Institute for analysis. In no case were minerals found in payable quantities.

V.—EDUCATION.

49. *Elementary.*—There are six schools providing elementary education in Bathurst, and two in Georgetown, MacCarthy Island. There are no schools in the Protectorate proper, though there are Almamis in the majority of the Mohammedan towns who give some religious instruction to the children.

50. The number of children on the roll in the elementary schools was 1,517 in 1919, including 13 pupils in a Wesleyan Technical School. 662 children were being educated in the Wesleyan Schools, 587 by Roman Catholics and 176 by Anglicans. The schools conducted by these denominations are in receipt of Government Grants which amounted in 1919 to £914. The total expenditure was £2,007, the balance being raised by contributions from the managers of the schools and fees. A Mohammedan School with 112 pupils is supported by Government at a cost of £173.

51. The sum voted by the Government for education in 1919 was £1,838.

52. *Secondary.*—There is only one secondary school in the Colony. This is maintained by the Wesleyans and has some 40 pupils.

53. *General.*—The extension of facilities for education and the necessity for making provision for suitable school buildings and a skilled staff of teachers have long been recognised, but progress was delayed owing to the War. Measures are now being taken for providing an educational system that is consistent with the needs of the population.

VI.—CURRENCY AND BANKING.

54. British West African silver, British sterling, French five franc pieces (legal value, 3*s.* 10½*d.*), nickel-bronze coins (1*d.* and ½*d.*) and West African currency notes for £5, 20*s.*, 10*s.*, 2*s.* and 1*s.* are all legal tender. Currency notes to the value of £963,676 were imported during 1919. Paper money introduced in 1919 was unwillingly accepted at first, but perforce circulated freely later; there is, however, no doubt that a considerable amount of discounting took place which had a regrettable effect on prices.

There are two banks doing business in Bathurst—the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank.

VII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

55. *Communications.*—There are no railways or telegraph lines in the Colony. There is a small telephone installation in Bathurst.

56. The river is the main line of internal communication. Transport by land is effected by human head carriage and by donkeys. The only macadamized road outside Bathurst runs for eight miles from that town to the Atlantic coast. Other roads are clearings in the bush. They are suitable to a limited extent for motor traffic, but the absence of substantial bridges makes long journeys impracticable. The African Direct Telegraph Company have a station at Bathurst. The Admiralty erected a wireless station near Bathurst in 1915, and commercial messages are accepted from shore to ship and vice versa.

57. Arrangements were made in 1919 for the erection by the Marconi Company of Wireless Telegraph and Telephone stations in Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island, 176 miles distant, for internal communication. Further installations will be made at other ports on the river if the experiment is successful.

58. Communication between the Colony and Europe is effected by the steamers of the African Steamship Company (Messrs. Elder Dempster and Co.), which run fortnightly between Liverpool and Bathurst. There is also a direct line of steamers from America (the Bull Line). Passengers also frequently travel to Europe by Dakar in French Senegal, which is 90 miles distant.

59. The total tonnage entering and clearing at the Port of Bathurst during 1919 was 441,860. Of this, 354,837 tons were British, 40,849 American, and 19,000 French.

VIII.—SOCIAL.

60. The cost of living is high in the Gambia and social unrest is increasing in Bathurst, at least where Unions and Associations have been formed on the most improved modern lines. Wages for skilled labour run from about 2*s.* 6*d.* a day to 7*s.* or 8*s.* out of the season, when the great majority of the natives return to their farms to plant. Mechanics, shipwrights and carpenters who are employed all the year round earn from 6*s.* to 10*s.* a day. Household servants are scarce, and they receive from £2 10*s.* to £6 a month.

H. HENNIKER-HEATON,
Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

6th October, 1920.

The following appendices are printed :—

1. List of principal firms trading in the Gambia.
2. List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.
3. Map of the Gambia.*

Recent Publications on the Gambia.

The Gambia Colony. F. B. Archer (St Bride's Press), 1905.
The Gambia. H. Reeve (Smith Elder), 1912.
Annual Trade Report of the Colony, 1900–1919, obtainable from the Crown Agents.

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861: [Cd. 7622–52.]

APPENDIX I.

Principal firms, &c.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade.

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any).
*Bathurst Trading Co. Ltd. ..	Wellington Street	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
*Barthes and Lesieur	,,	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
*Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale.	,,	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
*Maurel Frères	,,	6, Quai Louis XVIII., Bordeaux.
*Etablissements Maurel & Prom	,,	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
*African & Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited.	,,	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
*Louis Vezia & Compagnie ..	,,	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
*Palmyne, Limited	,,	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
*Gambia Trading Co., Ltd. ..	Buckle Street ..	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
*Horsley, A. B., Limited ..	Russell Street ..	——
Jones, S. Horton	,,	——
Antoin Blain	Wellington Street	——

* Members of the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX—II.

List of Barristers and Solicitors.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and vice versa.

* S. J. Forster, M.A. B.C.L. (Oxon.), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

* I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

† G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

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* Patent and Trade Mark Agents.
† Trade Mark Agent.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
1018	Trinidad	1918
1019	Bermuda	,,
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	,,
1025	Cyprus	,,
1026	British Honduras	1918
1027	British Solomon Islands..	1918–1919
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1030	Nigeria	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados..	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda..	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	,,
1049	Ceylon	,,
1050	Gibraltar..	,,
1051	Somaliland	1919–1920
1052	Zanzibar	1919

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony, &c.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

Printed under the authority of HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1120.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1053.)

LONDON:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37 Peter Street, Manchester;
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1922.

Price 6d. net.

No. 1120.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1920.*

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

1. The principal event during the year was the departure in July of Sir Edward J. Cameron, K.C.M.G., on retirement, after he had administered the Government for over six years, which included the critical years of the Great War. The Governor Designate, Captain C. H. Armitage, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has been the Chief Commissioner for the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast for some years, had not arrived in the Colony at the close of the period under review; but his arrival was expected at an early date.

2. No public works of importance were completed during 1920. It was not found possible to make any progress in 1920 with the schemes for laying down lighted buoys, which should render the riverine approaches to Bathurst accessible to navigation by day or by night, or for building a Government wharf more adequate than the present structure, which is unsatisfactory in several respects, and not suited to the requirements of Bathurst and the Colony. Financial provision has, however, been made in the Estimates for 1921 which will permit of the laying down of the proposed lighted buoys, and also of preliminary investigations being undertaken in connection with the proposed new wharf in the course of 1921.

II. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

3. The Revenue and Expenditure for the past three years have been as follows:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£
1918	133,324	88,703	193,894
1919	180,585	143,451	231,028
1920	268,788	171,160	328,657

4. There is no public debt.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861 [Cd. 7622–53].

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Approximately, 75 per cent. of the revenue is derived from Customs Duties, the main sources in 1920 being £105,000 from *ad valorem* duties, £33,000 from the duty on Kola nuts, and £26,000 from the export duty on ground-nuts. The general *ad valorem* duty is 7½ per cent. Boots and shoes, jewellery and perfumery pay 10 per cent., and in November, 1920, cotton goods, which formerly had come under the general *ad valorem* duty, were brought within this category, and at the same time the 5 per cent. duty on foodstuffs was abolished, and the export duty on ground nuts, which has stood at 6*s*. 8*d*. a ton for many years, notwithstanding the great appreciation in the market value of ground-nuts, was raised to £1 a ton. The increased export duty on the ground-nuts did not, of course, affect the shipment of the 1919–1920 crop, which, in accordance with the usual custom, had practically all been shipped before the new rate of duty came into force. An export duty of £2 a ton for palm kernels has been imposed also. The duty on spirits was raised from 5*s*. 6*d*. to 15*s*. per imperial gallon in January, 1920.

5. Although the revenue raised in 1920 is easily the largest amount ever collected in any one year in this Colony, and though expenditure has not increased in the same ratio as revenue, the finances of the Colony are not in quite so flourishing a condition as would at first sight appear to be the case. While the restrictions necessarily imposed on expenditure during the years of the Great War have permitted the Colony's finances to be built up, they have at the same time left the Colony with a great deal of leeway to make up in the matter of developing its resources.

III. PROGRESS OF TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

(*a*) TRADE.

6. *Trade.*—The remarkable progress which trade has made in recent years in this Colony has been much more than fully maintained in 1920. The figures, which speak for themselves, are as follows :—

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports ..	884,553	991,626	1,458,014	1,250,321	2,711,877
Exports ..	705,546	1,046,503	1,100,210	1,553,524	2,466,144
Total ..	1,590,099	2,038,129	2,558,224	2,803,845	5,178,021

The following are the total trade returns, excluding specie, for the last five years : —

1916	1917	1918	1919	1920
£	£	£	£	£
1,021,646	1,649,957	1,802,316	2,409,565	4,839,780

During the above quinquennium, specie to the value of £845,747 has been imported into the Colony in excess of that which has been exported from it.

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7. The trading business of the Colony is now to a very great extent in the hands of agencies, the principals of which have their headquarters in either England or France. A list of the leading firms, with their addresses, appears in the appendix to this report.

8. The merchants have undoubtedly made large profits in recent years, and have also done so in the year under review; but whether it will be possible for such large profits to be made in the immediate future appears to be somewhat dubious in view of the extraordinary collapse in the ground-nut market. The difficulties in the way of opening new businesses are moreover considerable. Capital is essential, and there are only a very few available sites for further buildings and wharves in Bathurst.

9. *Imports.*—The total import trade in 1920, excluding specie, was valued at £2,376,069. The value is that given at the port of shipment. Cotton piece goods and articles of cotton manufacture account for no less than £798,255. The other principal imports were as follows:—Rice, £329,069; kola nuts which come from Sierra Leone, £285,374; sugar, £65,136; hardware, £56,420; tobacco, £45,755.

10. The quantity of rice imported nearly trebled that imported in 1919. This was due to the fact that the local crops of rice and corn failed. The quantity of kola nuts imported, which was the greatest on record, may be regarded as an indication of the financial position of the people.

11. During the last three years the percentage proportions of the import trade have been as follows:—

	1918	1919	1920
United Kingdom	58	57	60
British Possessions	15	14	13
France and French Possessions	8	8	13
United States of America ..	16	19	10
Other Countries	3	2	4

12. In recent years the United States of America has made a strong effort to secure a substantial share of the West African trade. The value of imports from the United States of America has been as follows during the last three years:—

1918	1919	1920
£141,873	£235,548	£229,029

It will thus be seen that the effort of the United States has not been maintained either actually or even relatively as compared with other countries. A curious feature with regard to this trade with the United States is that there are no exports from the Gambia to the former country. The principal imports from the United States are rice, leaf tobacco, sugar, flour, timber, fuel oils, hardware and perfumery.

13. In the matter of hardware, manufacturers in the United Kingdom are so far competing very successfully with those of the United States; for while in 1919 the hardware trade, valued at £47,764, was almost solely restricted to, and nearly equally divided between, the manufacturers in the United Kingdom and those in the United States, yet in 1920 the hardware imports from the United Kingdom were valued at £41,389, and those from France at £8,291, taking the second place, and those from the United States at £3,799, taking only the third place.

14. *Exports.*—The value of the export trade for 1920 was £2,463,711, of which ground-nuts accounted for £2,322,032. Hides were exported to the value of £21,125; and palm kernels and calabashes to the value of £9,470 and £2,649 respectively. A few minor products and re-exported articles made up the balance of exports.

15. The exports of ground-nuts and palm kernels during the last three years have been as follows:—

	1918		1919		1920	
	Tons	*Value*	*Tons*	*Value*	*Tons*	*Value*
		£		£		£
Ground-nuts ..	56,490	800,319	70,270	1,154,429	84,037	2,322,032
Palm kernels	646	9,799	671	15,324	408	9,470

16. For many years down to 1916 the ground-nut trade was mainly in French hands although, in the years before the Great War, Germany was securing a greater share of it for herself every year. The restrictions imposed during the Great War diverted this trade to the United Kingdom, and, although the amount of this trade which the United Kingdom took in 1920 was not so great as in 1919, yet it was no less than 81 per cent. on the whole. France took nearly 13 per cent.

17. The price of ground-nuts was considerably higher than usual during the early months of 1920, and it reached at one time just over £50 a ton. The price, however, fell about the middle of the year to about £30, and this fall continued, notwithstanding a partial recovery of the price in September, until at the end of of the year under review the price was down to £22 15*s.* a ton, and there was even then no prospect of the end of the fall being in sight.

18. Piassava and wax have practically disappeared from the export trade; and gum, ivory, and gold no longer form any part of that trade; but the latter two commodities, however, did not originate in British Territory.

19. Importers of oil-seeds and manufacturers in the United Kingdom who wish to get into touch with the Gambia trade should apply either direct to the principals of the various firms or to

the Receiver General of the Colony, who is the Honorary Trade Correspondent of the Board of Trade. The local Chamber of Commerce is affiliated to the London Chamber of Commerce.

20. Individuals who wish to apply for employment in the Gambia as mechanics, clerks, etc., should address themselves to the headquarters of the firms in England or in France.

(*b*) AGRICULTURE.

21. The prosperity of the Colony is entirely dependent on agriculture, and it follows therefore that too much attention cannot be paid to its needs in this direction. At the end of 1920 an Agricultural Expert, Mr. M. T. Dawe, was engaged to advise the Government in agricultural matters.

22. The soil of, and the climatic conditions obtaining in, the Protectorate make it singularly well suited for the cultivation of the ground-nut; and, while this continues to be a profitable industry, it is most improbable that the people will take the trouble to raise any other important crop.

23. The ground-nut industry continues to be conducted on the very simple, almost primitive, basis which has obtained for so many years. The nuts are grown solely by the native farmers with the assistance of those "strange farmers" who, to the number of as many as 20,000, come annually into British territory for what may be termed the ground-nut season. These "strange farmers," many of whom come very long distances, usually return to their homes when their crops have been harvested and sold. The Government in 1920, as in previous years, supplied seed to the extent of about 1,000 tons to supplement the seed taken from the previous year's crop. The seed is sown at the beginning of the rains in June or July and the crop is lifted in November when the rains are over.

24. A certain amount of cotton used to be grown in, and rubber also used to be exported from, the Gambia in bygone years; but very little cotton is grown now, and the experiments which were undertaken some years ago with a view to encouraging cotton-growing were a failure because of the unsuitability of the climate. The export of rubber from this Colony, which some twenty-five years ago was worth nearly £30,000, has now entirely ceased. The rubber was obtained from wild Landolphia vines, and was not cultivated. The vines were tapped all the year round, a most uneconomic method and one which has no doubt helped to kill them off.

25. The rainfall in 1920 was 34·29 in. The average rainfall is steadily decreasing year by year, but no satisfactory explanation of this rather curious fact has been discovered so far. The absence of rain during nearly two-thirds of the year is, of course, a very

serious difficulty in the way of growing other cereal crops on a commercial basis, and it is a difficulty which has not been overcome so far by a system of artificial irrigation, although it is considered possible that there are one or two fairly large areas in the Protectorate which would lend themselves to irrigation.

26. *Other cereal crops.*—The people's staple foods are maize, guinea-corn, and millet ; and on the river flats a not inconsiderable quantity of rice is grown. Beans, cassava and sweet potatoes are also grown. Mangoes, oranges and pawpaws flourish, but there are few other kinds of fruit trees.

27. All the attempts in the past to induce the people to use modern agricultural implements and methods have failed, and the land is still worked by hand in the most primitive manner. The fact that there is no Agricultural Department in the Colony is no doubt one reason why these attempts have always proved such consistent failures in the past.

28. *Timber.*—Rhum palms, mahogany and rosewood are all used locally in such industries as ship and wharf building ; but none of these trees is, however, found to any considerable extent, and no timber is exported. The quality of the mahogany and rosewood is not considered sufficiently good for the European market.

IV. LAND.

29. *Public Lands.*—All lands which were not actually occupied when the Protectorate was established are regarded as public lands, and, as such, are controlled and leased by the Government. The policy now in force is to grant no lease for a longer period than twenty-one years, and such leases are usually granted for suitable sites on the banks of the River Gambia and its creeks for the erection of trading stations. The maximum area for which leases are issued is 6,000 square yards, and the annual rent varies from £1 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to the situation of the site leased, *e.g.*, whether it is located at a place which is accessible for ocean-going craft or is more remotely situated, and possibly even inland.

The total rental received by the Government in 1920 from the leases of land granted in the Protectorate was £2,352. The number of new leases of land issued in 1920 was sixteen, in addition to which seventy-nine licences were granted for wharves either already erected or to be erected.

V. EDUCATION

30. *Elementary.*—There are six schools providing elementary education in Bathurst and two in Georgetown, MacCarthy Island. There are no schools in the Protectorate, but in most of the Mohammedan towns the Almamis impart a certain amount of religious instruction to the children.

31. The number of children in 1920 who were on the roll of the elementary schools was 1,345, including thirteen pupils at the Wesleyan Technical School. This was closed about the middle of the year owing to the departure of the Superintendent to Europe, and it is understood that there is no prospect of its being re-opened. 637 children are being educated in the Roman Catholic Schools, 595 by the Wesleyans, and 113 at the Anglican School. Government grants amounting to £1,094 were made in 1920 to the schools conducted by the above-mentioned religious bodies. The total expenditure was £2,553, the balance being raised by contributions from the managers of the schools and by school fees.

The Mohammedan School, which was attended in 1920 by seventy-five pupils, is maintained by Government at a cost, in that year, of £151.

32. The sum which was provided by Government in 1920 for education was £1,953.

33. *Secondary.*—There is only one secondary school in the Colony, and this, which is attended by about fifty pupils, is maintained by the Wesleyan Community.

34. *General.*—It has long been recognised that the provision which is made in the Colony and the Protectorate for education is very far from being what it should be, and measures are now being taken for improving the educational system, such as the provision of more adequate accommodation and of a more highly-skilled teaching staff, measures which have long been delayed owing to the Great War. Arrangements have been made for an Educational Expert from a neighbouring West African Colony to visit the Gambia early in 1921 in order that he may study and report on the present educational system, and advise Government as to the best lines on which the education system should be developed.

VI. CURRENCY AND BANKING.

35. British Western African silver, British sterling, alloy and nickel and bronze coins and West African Currency Notes for £5, £1, 10*s*., 2*s*. and 1*s*. are all legal tender. There are two banks which do business in Bathurst: the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS.

36. *Communications.*—There are no railways or telegraph lines in the Colony. There is a small telephone installation in Bathurst. The African Direct Telegraph Company have a station in Bathurst, and commercial messages from shore to ship and vice versa are accepted for transmission by the Admiralty Wireless Telegraph Station which was erected near Bathurst in 1915.

37. Before the end of 1920 Wireless Telegraph and Telephone Stations were in the course of being erected at Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island, 176 miles distant, in accordance with the

arrangements made with the Marconi Company in the previous year. The service, which is intended for internal communication, was not, however, open to the general public by the end of the year.

38. The steamers of the African Steamship Company (Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company) furnish a service plying between Liverpool and Bathurst. Passengers can also not infrequently travel to Europe from Dakar, in French Senegal, which is only about ninety miles distant. There is also a direct line of steamers from America (the Bull Line) and also from Holland.

39. The total tonnage entering and clearing during 1920 at the port of Bathurst was 796,920, being an increase of over 82 per cent. on the tonnage that entered and cleared in 1919. Of the total tonnage no less than 591,646 tons were British, but the United States and Dutch tonnage increased considerably owing to the direct service of steamers from New York and Rotterdam.

VIII. SOCIAL

40. *Health and Vital Statistics.*—The death-rate in Bathurst in 1920 was 49·82 per mille. The total number of deaths registered was 414 as against 249 in 1919. No vital statistics are available for the Protectorate. Malaria, tuberculosis, amoebic dysentery and venereal disease are the most prevalent forms of disease.

41. The cost of living in the Gambia is comparatively high, and social unrest is increasing to some extent—at any rate in Bathurst, where Unions and Associations on the most modern lines have been formed. A strike occurred in October, 1920, among the native shipwrights and mariners, but it was terminated in consequence of an award made by an Arbitration Board appointed by Government to enquire into and make recommendations for removing the causes of the dispute and any grievances which were found to exist. The award was accepted by all the parties concerned. Wages for skilled labourers vary between 2*s.* 6*d.*, 7*s.* and even 8*s.* a day. Carpenters, mechanics and shipwrights who are employed all the year round earn from 6*s.* to 10*s.* a day. Household servants are somewhat scarce, and the quality of their service is certainly not as a rule very good, notwithstanding that they receive wages varying from £2 to as much as £5 a month.

The following appendices are printed :—

1. List of principal firms trading in the Gambia.
2. List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

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*Etablissements Maurel and Prom.	,, ,,	18. Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeau.
*Gambia Trading Co., Ltd. ..	Buckle Street ..	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
*Maurel Freres	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
*Louis Vezia & Compagnie..	,, ,,	83,Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
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Antoin Blain	,, ,,	—
Jones, S. Horton	Russell Street ..	—

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1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1121.

GAMBIA.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
From EDWARD A. FOLEY,
Agricultural Commissioner;
LONDON, ENGLAND.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1120.)

LONDON:
PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; 37 Peter Street, Manchester;
1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; and 23 Forth Street,
Edinburgh.

1922.

Price 6d. net.

No. 1121.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1921.*

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Gambia is the smallest but the oldest of the possessions of England in Africa. For centuries past it has been the resort of mariners, but it was not until Elizabethan days that our sea-power enabled us to plant outposts here.

The first book to arouse the interest of our nation in this part of the world was that entitled "The Discovery of the River Gambra and the Golden Trade of the Ethiopians. Also the commerce with a Great Black Merchant called Buckar Sano and his report of the Houses covered with Gold and other Strange Observations for the Good of our Country. Set down as they were collected in travelling part of the year 1620 and 1621 by Richard Jobson, gent." This book was the outcome of the Charter granted by King James I to the "Company of Adventurers of London trading into Africa" which established Fort James, our first settlement ashore on the Dark Continent. A century later the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered company administration, however, was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the company, it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown. Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir Richard Burton, a visitor sixty years ago, compared its houses with those of Byculla, Bombay, and wrote of it as "a place selected for unhealthiness, for proximity to mud, mangrove, miasma and malaria." Much has been done to improve its condition since then, and its death-rate is now only 44·5 per 1000.

* A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861 [Cd. 7622–53].

The principal event of the year 1921 was the arrival in January of the new Governor, Captain C. H. Armitage, C.M.G., D.S.O., formerly Chief Commissioner of the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, whose long experience of West Africa made his appointment particularly acceptable to all sections of the community.

As no public works of importance were carried out in 1920, an ambitious programme was laid down for 1921, but it became apparent, as the year wore on, that pre-war conditions had not been restored, and the delay in obtaining materials from England hindered progress. The largest undertaking put in hand was the building of the new barracks for the West African Frontier Force at Cape St. Mary, which, when completed, will provide ample accommodation for the Gambia Company, with separate rooms for each soldier.

II. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years have been :

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of assets over liabilities.
	£	£	£
1917	117,977	94,519	149,374
1918	133,324	88,703	193,894
1919	180,585	143,451	231,028
1920	268,788	171,160	328,657
1921	183,201	225,461	286,396

There is no public debt.

Export duty on ground-nuts, the chief source of revenue, was first introduced in 1862, so that for sixty years this particular form of taxation has obtained in the Gambia.

Ad valorem duty is charged on the invoiced value of goods at the port of shipment exclusive of trade discounts, and the greatest decrease in revenue was under this head.

The receipt from the 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty on cotton piece-goods amounted to £10,834, as compared with £52,882 in 1920, when the duty was only 7½ per cent. *ad valorem* until November. The revenue derived from the import duty on kola-nuts was £24,545, and for the first time in the history of the Colony exceeded that derived from *ad valorem* duties. The duty on spirits was 15*s*. a gallon in 1920, and it produced £7,005. In 1921, in spite of the increase to 25*s*. a gallon and the prohibition of trade spirits, the revenue produced from this source was £7,408. The total expenditure, which exceeded the revenue by £42,260, included part payment of the cost of construction of the new barracks and the new Government steamer.

(6881) Wt. 9952/492 1000 8/22 Harrow G.75/2 B

The excess of assets over liabilities shows a decrease of £42,260 compared with 1920. The assets include the debt owed by the Protectorate to the Government for rice and seed-nuts lavishly supplied in the previous year.

The market value of the Government investments at the beginning of the year was nearly £30,000 less than their cost price, but a distinct improvement is shown when compared with 1920, when the depreciation was nearly £44,000.

III. TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

The year 1921 was one of the worst in the annals of the Colony, and the total foreign trade showed a decline of £3,500,000 as compared with 1920. As elsewhere, this was due to the heavy fall in the price of produce and of goods. Large stocks of merchandise which had been bought at high rates during the boom had to be liquidated at much below actual cost, and the enormous credits given out by the traders in the Protectorate could not be collected.

The quantity of cotton piece-goods imported was the smallest for many years, the only considerable article which showed an increase compared with pre-war times being kola-nuts.

Whilst less spirits were imported than ever before, and no trade spirits at all, a large consumption of palm-wine has taken place, on which much profit is made by the native retailers.

The prosperity of the Colony is entirely dependent on agriculture. The ground-nut is the staple product. A small business is done in palm kernels, but the figures for the last five years show that it is diminishing.

	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Ground-nuts, in tons ..	74,300	56,490	71,677	85,190	59,175
Palm kernels, in tons ..	532	644	671	468	302

The grower received little for his ground-nut crop, nuts ranging from 3*s*. to 1*s*. 3*d*. a bushel. Prices f.o.b. were declared at an average of £12 10*s*. a ton, the Liverpool market ranging from £14 10*s*. in January to £21 10*s*. in December.

The nuts are grown entirely by native proprietors, whose numbers are nearly doubled each year by the "Strange farmers" who come over from Senegal at the beginning and leave at the end of the season. The influx of so many strangers is not without its disadvantages, but the custom is of long-standing, and the visitors add to the volume of up-river trade. An improvement of the quality of the harvest is expected from an Ordinance against adulteration of produce which came into force towards the end of the year.

A judicious selection of seed-nuts and the application of scientific methods of planting and ploughing are needed.

An experimental station—no new proposal in the Gambia—has been recommended by the agricultural expert sent out by the Colonial Office to advise the Government during the year, and a further proposal to establish a Department of Agriculture is under consideration.

On account of the large debts due to the Government from last season, the policy of supplying seed-nuts on credit to the farmers has been discontinued.

Rice, guinea-corn, millet and maize are at present only grown for local food supplies. Three thousand tons of rice, only a third of the import of 1920, was brought in this year, but all this and more could be grown in the Protectorate if the people were to irrigate their land.

Much damage to food crops is caused by monkeys, wart-hogs and hippopotami.

The elephant, which figures in the Gambia badge, is seen no more, and lions are rarely encountered. The Commissioner of the North Bank Province writes: "The killing of a lion here is worth recording, for although one or two come into the Gambia every year—and they are frequently heard—I do not think more than three have been killed during the last twenty years." The full-grown male shot in Jokadu on 1st May was about three years old and absolutely maneless.

Herds are rapidly recovering from the effects of the 1917 scourge, which carried off about 80 per cent. of the Senegal and Gambia cattle.

In the Upper River Province there was a heavy mortality amongst donkeys, which are extensively used in transport work.

IV. LAND AND CLIMATE.

All land not in actual occupation when the Protectorate was established is regarded as public, and is leased by Government in small parcels for a period not exceeding 21 years.

At wharf towns the value of frontage plots depends partly on whether ocean-going craft can go alongside to take in cargo, or whether loading has to be done by lighter or canoe. Conditions are imposed against sub-letting without permission. The erection of permanent buildings and of boundary pillars and the cleaning of roads are covenants of the leases, and tenants of river-side land are required to reserve for public use a path not less than ten yards wide on each bank.

The total rental received by Government from Crown lands in Bathurst in 1921 was £725, in the Protectorate £4,064.

The number of new grants made was 75, in addition to which licences for 12 wharves already erected or to be erected were issued.

It is impossible to estimate the amount of acreage under crops, as the Protectorate has not yet been fully surveyed.

The annual rainfall is diminishing, but the decrease does not appear to have a marked effect on the ground-nut crop, but without statistics of the area sown no calculation of the yield can be made, because a certain proportion of the harvest is eaten, and some seed-nuts are carried over for the next season. A fair average would be about 40 bushels, or half a ton, to the acre.

During 1921 the rainfall in Bathurst was 35·12 inches, and the mean average temperature 78·5.

V. EDUCATION.

An educational expert visited the colony at the invitation of the Government during the year. An Education Code was drafted by him, but its adoption will necessitate an expenditure which cannot be incurred at the moment. The present system of subsidizing the schools attached to the Christian and Mahommedan communities leaves much to be desired. There is no compulsory attendance ; 1,717 children are on the rolls of the denominational elementary schools, and the only secondary institution in the Colony, the Wesleyan High School, has 50 pupils. No candidate came forward for the new scholarships offered to Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone.

The difficulty of obtaining suitable teachers can only be overcome by the establishment of a Gambia Training College, with an adequate staff. The average standard of education is low, but the people are intelligent, and only need facilities to enable them to compete successfully with the other West African Colonies. A curriculum which would include industrial or technical training is badly needed. Many now enter the service of Government or the firms as clerks who would be better employed in following a trade.

In September a troop of Boy Scouts was formed, and it is hoped that the movement will take root and have a wide influence on the rising generation of the Gambia.

VI. CURRENCY AND BANKING.

Alloy coins, first issued by the West African Currency Board in November, 1920, are unpopular, but the pound and ten shilling notes were in great demand by persons wishing to exchange French money, and for this reason they were called in early in the year. The prevalence of the five-franc piece characterized the currency

of this Colony long before the Order-in-Council of the 10th June, 1843, fixed it at 3*s*. 10½*d*., at which figure it has remained ever since. In 1880, when it formed 85 per cent. of the total circulation of the Colony, the question of demonetization was raised, but rejected. The popularity of the five-franc piece, apart from its handsome appearance and intrinsic value and usefulness, is due to the fact that the dollar is the unit of price here, and is current at the convenient rate of 4*s*., except in payments to the Government.

In March the two banks trading in Bathurst, the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank, refused to accept five-franc pieces for transfers abroad except at the current rate of exchange.

In April the importation of these coins was prohibited, but their number increased, and the situation became embarrassing, although the Government restored public confidence by a guarantee.

After demonetization had been effected in Sierra Leone this Colony became the magnet which attracted five-franc pieces from all over West Africa.

By the end of the year the Government had over £70,000 in five-franc pieces at legal tender value, earning no interest and of no use for transfers.

The Bathurst Chamber of Commerce, which had strongly opposed demonetization in the early months of the year, pressed for it towards the close, when the accumulation of dollars gave cause for general alarm, and it was decided to demonetize the coin in January, 1922.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS.

A considerable increase in the proportion of foreign shipping to English has taken place this year, more than half the tonnage entered and cleared being foreign, as compared with one-third last year.

The first German steamer seen in the Gambia since June, 1914, arrived on the 7th May, 1921.

Four buoys lighted by acetylene have been laid down at the entrance to the river, so that Bathurst is now accessible for ships at any time of the day or night.

The Government yacht "Mansa Kila Ba," which is used for official purposes only, is shortly to be replaced by a larger vessel now building in England, which will be fitted with apparatus for lifting the buoys.

A river service is maintained by several of the firms during the season, and the Government runs a small steamer fortnightly throughout the year.

Preliminary investigations were carried out by an engineering expert in connection with the proposals for building a new wharf at Bathurst.

Trial borings, current gauging and soundings were made. As the undertaking would benefit chiefly the mail steamers, it is hoped that an improved service with Liverpool and London will be put on to justify the estimated expenditure of over £70,000. Loading steamers use private wharves in Bathurst and up the river.

With such a superb waterway as the Gambia little attention has been paid to road-making, but during this year there has been progress, and with more motor traffic it will be necessary to link up the existing roads with bridges at points where tributary streams run into the main river.

A small wireless set between Bathurst and Georgetown was opened in March and operated by the Marconi Company. The Naval Wireless Station erected during the War at Cape Saint Mary was closed down this year in conformity with the Admiralty's policy of retrenchment.

Cable communication with Europe is maintained by the African Direct Telegraph Company, through whom Reuter's news messages are received.

VIII. PROTECTORATE.

In the Protectorate, where nine-tenths of the population live, the great expectations of a prosperous trading season were not fulfilled. From a farmer's point of view it was the worst on record: 1915 was a bad year, for the price of nuts was even lower than in the year under review, but the people were not then overwhelmed with debt as the result of the injurious practice adopted by the native agents of the firms of supplying the natives with goods on credit.

The Government has made the strongest representations to the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce with a view to putting an end to that practice.

One result of the fall in prices was the cheapness of labour. In the wharf towns, where a large floating population collects, a shilling a day and rations, or even rations alone, were paid, whereas in 1920 it was difficult to get men to work at six shillings a day.

The wharf towns are a grave problem, and it will be necessary to take steps to improve their condition in the near future. There are only three Police posts in the Protectorate, and the Travelling Commissioners are only able to spend a part of their time in the larger centres.

Indirect government is carried on by the Chiefs and Headmen in each of the five Provinces. Many of them show a marked talent for administration.

" The District which is given to me," said one, " was torn like a robe, and I must take needle and thread and piece it together before I can rest."

Mahommedanism is the prevailing religion, and the Mandingoes are the most numerous tribe in the Protectorate. Next to them come the Jolloffs, Fulahs and Jolahs.

IX. SOCIAL.

The Census was taken in the month of April, and showed a total of 210,530, as compared with 138,401 in 1911. Bathurst, during the last ten years, has grown from 7,700 to 9,227, amongst whom were numbered 265 Europeans, including 130 British and 42 French. Like all ports, it contained a large variety of nationalities, and during the War many undesirables from up and down the coast collected here and still remain. Next to the Jolloffs the most numerous race in Bathurst are the Akus, or descendants of the liberated Africans, amongst whom are included the majority of the educated class.

There are 2,225 houses in Bathurst, and rentals are very high. Goods still cost more than before the War, and wages, though reduced, are much above the 1913 rates. In spite of being the nearest to England of her African Colonies, the Gambia is in a backwater, and, with the uncertain outlook in Europe, the Colonial Government is deterred from entering on the large schemes which are necessary for its development.

C. R. M. WORKMAN,

31 *May*, 1922.

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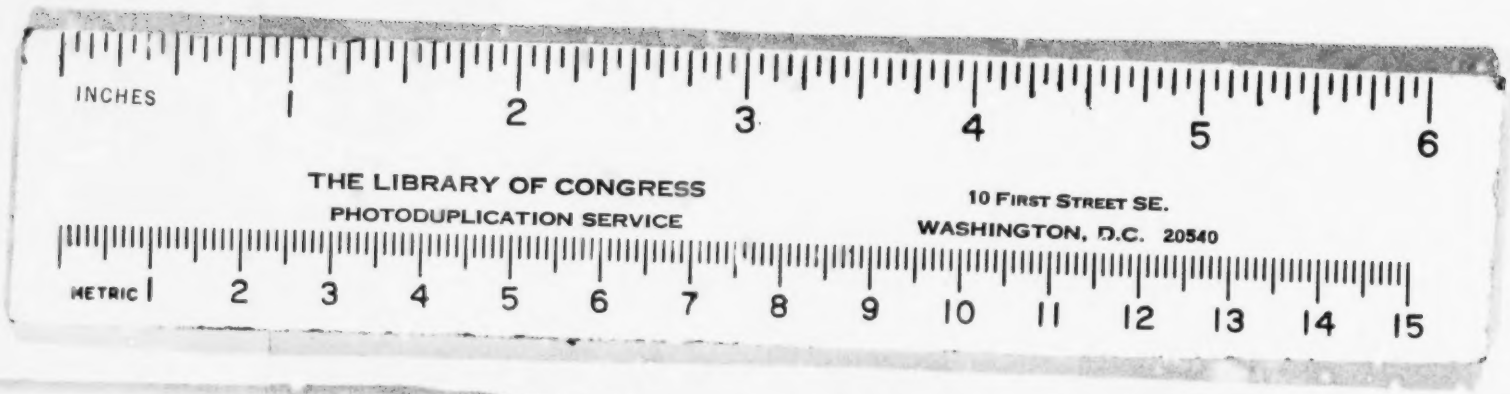
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1160.

GAMBIA

Report for 1922

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1121)

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1923.

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No. 1160.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1922.*

PREFACE.

The Gambia is the smallest but the oldest of the possessions of England in Africa. For centuries past it has been the resort of mariners, but it was not until Elizabethan days that our sea-power enabled us to plant outposts here.

The first book to arouse the interest of our nation in this part of the world was that entitled "The Discovery of the River Gambra and the Golden Trade of the Ethiopians. Also the commerce with a Great Black Merchant called Buckar Sano and his report of the Houses covered with Gold and other Strange Observations for the Good of our Country. Set down as they were collected in travelling part of the year 1620 and 1621 by Richard Jobson, gent." This book was the outcome of the Charter granted by King James I to the "Company of Adventurers of London trading in Africa," which established Fort James, our first settlement ashore on the Dark Continent. A century later the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered company administration, however, was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the company, it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown. Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

NOTE.—A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861 [Cd. 7622–53].

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I.—Demonetization.

The most important event in this Colony during 1922 was the demonetization of the five-franc piece, which the Order in Council of June the 10th, 1843, had fixed at 3*s*. 10½*d*. So long as the French exchange remained normal no difficulty arose with regard to these coins, but with the depreciation of their actual worth since the War drastic steps had to be taken, as the Gambia was the only place where these coins were current at their nominal value. On the second day of the year the order to demonetize all Belgian, French, Swiss and Italian five-franc pieces was received, and by the end of January they had ceased to be legal tender. During the month British alloy to the value of £407,950 was paid out. No fewer than 2,105,551 five-franc pieces were collected and shipped to England, with a total shortage of only £68. They were melted down for rather more than half their local value and the proceeds were credited against the loan made by the West African Currency Board. The delay in carrying out this necessary measure has cost the Colony nearly £200,000, to which must be added future interest at 4 per cent. The withdrawal of so convenient and popular a coin was much felt, as it was the last silver money left and all calculations have been based on it for generations. It has always been an important part of a dowry and was prized for ornamental purposes as well. A certain number, however, were kept back. Some natives wanted neither the Government nor their own people to know what they possessed; others wanted them to purchase wives and cattle with in French territory; yet others waited till too late, as they will always do about anything.

The complete recasting of the Estimates followed. Large schemes like the lighting of the town by electric light and the extension of the Government wharf had to be abandoned temporarily, and it will be some years before the Colony can repeat the statement of many previous Annual Reports that in the Gambia there is no public debt.

II.—Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years has been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£
1918	133,324	88,703	193,894
1919	180,585	143,451	231,028
1920	268,788	171,160	328,657
1921	183,201	225,461	286,396
1922	204,244	430,312	99,687

The ordinary revenue for the year 1922 exceeded the income of any previous year except 1920. Customs duties brought in £144,281, the *ad valorem* duties produced £24,494, and the amount received from the 10 per cent. duty on cotton goods showed a decided increase over that for 1921, £15,040 as against £10,834.

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The duty on kola nuts was raised from 3*d*. to 4*d*. a lb. in October, and the extra penny brought in £2,020 by the end of the year, the total increase over 1921 being £59,433. The duty on spi its, on the other hand, dropped to £6,054, or £1,354 less than in the preceding year.

The total expenditure of £430,312 for the year 1922 includes the loss incurred by demonetization. The surplus of assets at the close of the year was correspondingly reduced, but in future years this liability will be omitted from the statement and a separate loan account opened. The surplus of assets on the 31st December can therefore be placed at a figure little short of the previous year instead of at £99,687, as shown above.

The market value of the Government investments at the close of the year was £169,861, or £12,557 less than their cost price and £26,019 less than their face value.

III.—Trade and Agriculture.

(*a*) ***Trade***.—The year 1922 showed an improvement over 1921, the total value of the Colony's trade inwards and outwards (exclusive of specie) being £1,461,265, an increase of £120,710 over the year 1921, notwithstanding the decline in price of many articles of commerce.

Over five and a third million yards of cotton piece goods were imported, as against less than half that quantity in the previous year, practically the whole of it coming from Great Britain.

Kola nuts amounted to 22,807 cwts., and in spite of the raising of the duty from 3*d*. to 4*d*. a lb., the supply exceeded that of the year 1921 by over 5,000 cwts.

Only 4,881 gallons of spirits were imported, the figures for the three years before being 14,111 gallons in 1919, 9,740 in 1920 and 7,563 in 1921.

France is recapturing the trade in sugar which she lost to America during the War, supplying 53 per cent. of the total sugar consumed in the Colony in the year 1922.

Exclusive of specie the value of imports was £653,421, and of exports £807,844.

The total exportation of groundnuts amounted to 64,800 tons, 5,625 tons more that the year before, but slightly below the average of the past ten years. Prices f.o.b. were declared at an average of £12 a ton, the Liverpool market ranging from £17 in February to £20 5*s*. in April.

The trade diverted from France to England during the War is gradually returning to its old course. In 1919 90 per cent. of the total amount exported was consigned to the United Kingdom, but in 1922 the proportion was only 47·38 per cent.

The trade in palm kernels was not affected by the removal of the duty of £2 a ton on consignments to foreign countries, as the bulk of the nuts has always gone to England.

(*b*) *Agriculture.*—Provision was made for the establishment of an Agricultural Department, and the Director of Agriculture arrived in October. His investigations have already shown the need for better methods of cultivation and the use of seed nuts specially selected to improve the inferior quality of the staple product of the Colony. Much of the groundnut crop is grown by the " strange farmers " from Senegal, who came over during the period under review to the number of about 20,000.

The employment of Produce Inspectors has reduced the percentage of sand and foreign matter at the transit stations. The native's methods are capable of considerable improvement. The ground is never properly cleaned of roots. Weeds are allowed to grow unchecked, and the principle of manuring is not understood. The native has always been backward in adopting improved methods of cultivation. Sixty years ago the Governor of the day wrote to the Secretary of State : " At MacCarthy Island I saw in store the decayed remains of farming implements supplied by a philanthropic society in England, and the same evening I witnessed a native preparing his land, not with anything half so civilized as a hoe, but with the iron hoop of a cask which that morning he had received from the steward of the ' Dover ' in exchange for his fowls."

The cereal crop was good, except in the case of the large " koos " (Basso). More maize is now being grown and it is hoped that this food will become more popular when the domestic uses of corn-meal have been better realized.

Rice, which is entirely grown by women, was not sufficient for local demands, and over 3,500 tons were brought into the Colony from abroad. Much damage to the crops is done each year by hippopotamus, monkey and warthog.

Cotton is planted on a fairly large scale and is utilized by the natives in making yarn. This is woven into narrow strips, called " pagns," by means of a primitive hand-loom. Indigo supplies the dye in which the cloth is soaked, the leaves being beaten to a pulp and mixed with water.

Cattle disease carried off much stock, and the symptoms indicated contagious pleuro-pneumonia, which ravaged the Protectorate in 1917. It was found that beasts which survived that year escaped attack in 1922.

Two herds belonging to Fulas, in the North Bank Province, bolted at the first death, and it was not until some weeks later that they were traced to the Central Niumi Bush, where they were all found in splendid condition. In the Upper River Province alone over 2,000 died. The services of a veterinary expert are required, together with an efficient staff to carry out his instructions.

IV.—Land and Climate.

Land in the Protectorate may be said to be held communally, but the areas known as public lands are leased in small parcels by the Government for terms not exceeding twenty-one years.

One hundred and sixteen grants were issued during the year, and the total rental received for land and wharf licences was £3,834.

In the Protectorate water frontages are being taken up at convenient points on the river banks, but the main business is done at Basse, Fattoto and Kuntaur. At the two former towns, in the Upper River Province, the markets have been moved to the outskirts, and the ground vacated has been laid out in allotments, 350 of which have been taken up at Basse and 240 at Fattoto. Yards also have been built for cattle, which are brought in for sale in large numbers.

The meteorological returns for Bathurst and Georgetown were as follows :—

	Average max. shade.	Average min. shade.	Average mean.	Rainfall.
Bathurst ...	92·2°F.	63·4°F.	77·8°F.	45·71 in.
Georgetown ...	100·6°	63·5°	82·1°	28·56 in.

The highest maximum shade temperature was 111°F., in the month of May, at Georgetown, and the heaviest rainfall recorded in one month was 18½ in., in August, at Bathurst.

V.—Education.

The development of education in the Colony has been retarded again this year by the need for retrenchment in every branch of the Public Service. Though a new code has been drafted it cannot be put into force until a Director of Education is appointed.

All the schools in the Gambia have trouble with their inefficient teaching staffs. Owing to the absence of a training institution or even of training classes for teachers it will always be difficult to procure competent teachers unless properly educated persons are introduced from other Colonies. There are 1,888 children on the rolls of the affiliated elementary schools. The schools are in the hands of the various religious bodies and are controlled by a Board of Education, on which the Police Magistrate sits as Government Inspector. A small grant is made to the European Superintendents of the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Wesleyan denominations, whilst a school committee composed entirely of Mohammedans looks after the 216 Mohammedan pupils.

There are secondary schools maintained by the Wesleyans for 104 boys and girls and a Roman Catholic Convent school with 30 girls.

The Mohammedan school has a few children from the Protectorate. The advantages of education are beginning to attract the more advanced natives, who are anxious that their sons should be able to compete on level terms with the traders. One scholarship has been granted to a Gambia student for Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone.

It is most unfortunate that no technical instruction is given in the Colony with the exception of such training as may be obtained in the Public Works Department or in the engineering shops of the firms.

Until the people realize that no stigma attaches to manual labour and that a clerical post is not the only goal towards which the youth of Bathurst should aim, little can be done. Their attitude is all the more to be deplored because the African shows considerable aptitude in the handling of tools and machinery.

Hygiene classes were held by the Medical Officers of Health, but the examination was disappointing. It is hoped to obtain better results when the lectures are given in the vernacular, instead of in English.

Physical training might be introduced with advantage, but the playground accommodation is limited to two schools. The geographical conditions of Bathurst prevent the acquisition of further land for recreation.

Competition between the schools culminated on Empire Day, when the Wesleyans were successful in retaining the flag presented by the town of Bathurst, Australia, for the best school in field events. The Roman Catholics once more carried off the prize for the first place at the annual examinations.

The Boy Scout movement has taken root in Bathurst. During the year forty-eight boys were enrolled. The influence of such character training cannot be overrated, and a Company of Girl Guides is also being formed.

VI.—Currency.

Alloy coinage of the West African Currency Board to the value of about £400,000 is in circulation. Paper money to the amount of £100,000 has been issued in notes ranging from 1*s*. to £5. French paper money finds its way into the Protectorate although its export from Senegal is prohibited by French Law. During the trade season the five-franc note is more or less stabilized and is popular with the " strange farmers," who prefer being paid in notes which they can take back with them to their homes.

VII.—Communications.

(*a*) *Shipping*.—The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year in ocean trade was 430, of 829,694 tons aggregate, of which 200 vessels (554,172 tons) were British.

The Woermann Line and associated companies show considerably increased tonnage, the first passenger boat of this line to call at Bathurst since June, 1914, being the s.s. " Winfried," in October.

During the year the Messageries Africaines instituted an inter-colonial mail service between Dakar, Bathurst and Ziquinchor.

Ships of the Roma Societa di Navigazione, from Italy to the West Coast, call at Bathurst when inducement offers. Messrs.

Elder, Dempster and Company have reduced their first-class passenger rates from £42 to £34 in consequence of foreign competition.

A new Government steamer, the " Prince of Wales " arrived in the Colony towards the end of the year. In 1920 the Association of West African Merchants had urged on the Imperial Shipping Committee the need for public river services on all West African rivers. On the Gambia the small Government steamer " Vampire " was not considered adequate and the " Prince of Wales " was accordingly ordered. Sailings from Bathurst are now maintained by the " Prince of Wales " and " Vampire " every alternate week. The dimensions of the " Prince of Wales " are 150 ft. length, 28 ft. 6 in. beam and 6 ft. draft. She is a twin screw steamer, fitted for both oil and coal, with a speed of 10 knots, and is equipped with a powerful winch for lifting the new lighted buoys.

The " Mansa Kila Ba," which has rendered excellent service the last ten years, is 40 ft. shorter and is fitted with triple screw Thorneycroft engines.

(*b*) *Posts and Telegraphs Department.*—This Department has been reorganized and is now responsible for the telegraph and telephone system and the Treasury Savings Bank.

A travelling post office serves the wharf towns from Basse to Fattoto and there are four land post offices.

Letter postage to the United Kingdom was reduced from 2*d*. to 1½*d*. on 1st September. A new issue of stamps of pictorial design and bearing the King's portrait was introduced at the same time. The series includes a new value of 10*s*. The issue of 1912 and the script issue of 1921 were withdrawn from sale at the end of the year.

Messrs. Elder, Dempster continued the carrying of mails to and from Europe, 35 inward and 38 outwards.

At present news of shipping is obtainable only by submarine telegraph. The small wireless set installed by the Marconi Company for communicating between Bathurst and Georgetown, 176 miles away, and operated by them until last May, is useless for communicating with ships. In order to do this, a wireless set capable of reducing the transmitting wave length from 900 to 600 metres would be required.

VIII.—The Protectorate.

Normal conditions are gradually returning, but the people are still carrying the burden of debt incurred during the boom year 1920. Little credit has been given out by the traders this year and none by the Government, which has stopped the distribution of rice and seed nuts entirely. About £50,000 is still due to the Government and each year it becomes more difficult to collect it.

The towns are full of business during the trading season, which has now been limited to the five months between December and May. For the rest of the year there is little excitement.

The inroads of dog-faced monkeys and hippopotami on the farms and the occasional disappearance of some native seized by a crocodile are reported.

Efforts have been directed towards the improvement of the larger towns, which have been remarkably free from either epidemics or fires in 1922. Smallpox claimed a few natives, but vaccination has now become popular and infected persons are isolated promptly.

Much attention has been devoted to road improvement and a new Causeway has been built at Kuntaur, where labour is plentiful.

The Chiefs are elected, not hereditary. They govern with the assistance of Headmen. Merit and service are rewarded by the presentation by the Government of silver medallions and chains, which are greatly appreciated. At a recent meeting it was noticed that those Chiefs present who were not eligible were barely able to conceal their chagrin when their colleagues were decorated.

The Government gifts of guns and ammunition for the protection of crops are also valued, though the weapons are of little use for dealing with the lions which have begun to reappear in the South Bank Province.

A scheme for the reorganization of the Protectorate has been approved, but has had to be deferred. It is intended to build permanent bungalows at the headquarters station of each Travelling Commissioner, from whence each Province will be administered during the rains.

IX.—Vital Statistics and Sanitation.

The population of Bathurst is 9,395, with 205 Europeans. The death-rate was 46·62 per thousand, the average rate since 1916 being 42. There were 295 births and 437 deaths during the year, the heaviest mortality being in October, and the chief causes of death, pneumonia and tetanus.

The sanitary improvement of Bathurst is a difficult matter because of its unusual situation. The most pressing problem is the disposal of night-soil. Trenching, incineration and biologic treatment have all been considered and rejected on the ground of cost or difficulty of adoption. The drains also require much repair and regrading, as they remain in almost the same state as when the town was first built.

Accurate statistics from the Protectorate are not obtainable, but a careful return from the North Bank Province for 1922 gives 1,628 births and 905 deaths. In this Province an outbreak of bubonic plague occurred in September. It was traced to a focus in French Senegal. Thirty-four cases were counted and only four of them recovered. Active measures were taken to isolate the infected villages, and control stations were established on the route to Bathurst. It was only by vigilance and a strict enforcement of regulations that the capital was saved from a visitation of this disease.

X.—Judicial.

(*a*) *Supreme Court.*—Forty-four out of the fifty-six trials in the Supreme Court during the year were for larceny. The prevalence of theft in Bathurst is ascribed not so much to the vagrants who come down the river at the end of every season as to the activities of a gang of receivers who carry on a lucrative business by disposing of their gains down the coast. In the Police Court, 135 out of a total of 741 trials were for the same crime, but in the Protectorate, where the Travelling Commissioners and Native Tribunals administer justice, there is less stealing in proportion.

The number of actions commenced on the civil side of the Supreme Court was 37, as compared with 28 in 1921. The most interesting decision was that in a suit in which a debtor preferred one creditor to another, and it was held that, owing to the absence of any bankruptcy legislation in the Colony, the preference was not illegal.

(*b*) *Legislation.*—Amongst the 31 Ordinances enacted during the year were those dealing with destitute immigrants, the registration and licensing of domestic servants, the restriction of rent profiteering in Bathurst, pensions and gratuities, the safeguarding of farmers in selling their crops, and the provision of a Post Office Savings Bank.

Regulations under the Adulteration of Produce Ordinance fixed a charge of 6*d*. a ton on all produce exported and a standard of purity allowing not more than 2 per cent. of extraneous matter in all shipments.

Proclamation No. 1 of 1922, already referred to, displaced the five-franc piece as legal tender from the Colony and Protectorate.

(*c*) *Police.*—The Force was not maintained at its authorized strength during the year on account of the increasing difficulty of enlisting literate recruits. A reorganization is under consideration which is expected to attract men of the right type.

In addition to their ordinary routine at Headquarters and at the three Protectorate police posts, 17 men were detached for warder duty and 15 for the band.

The cost of upkeep has been reduced by the cutting out of house allowance, made possible by the men occupying the old lines of the Frontier Force at Box Bar. By this measure increased cohesion and better discipline, as well as rapid mobilization in case of emergency, will be achieved.

A most creditable musketry course was carried out at the Cape, the figure of merit being 67 out of a possible 87.

Eleven fire calls were attended during the year. Some better form of fire protection than at present exists must be provided in the near future. The most feasible would be a stationary pumping set at the Public Works Department with a fresh water supply tank.

(*d*) *Prisons.*—328 prisoners were admitted in 1922, the daily average of gaol inmates being 93. The accommodation has been

increased by a building along the Cape Road, where 40 men are housed. The health of the prisoners is better there than in Bathurst and no case of beri-beri has occurred at the gaol extension.

Bathurst gaol is as old as Bathurst, and for many years a rumour has been current that treasure was buried inside under a slab in the pavement of the main building. It was decided to raise the slab and discover what was below. To the disappointment of the spectators nothing was found but the sand on which the town is built.

XI.—General.

On the King's Birthday the usual ceremonial was carried out. The Governor's announcement that the King had conferred the Companionship of St. Michael and St. George on Dr. Hopkinson, D.S.O., the Senior Commissioner, after twenty years' service in the Gambia, was received with acclamation.

On Armistice Day the new marble Cenotaph, of similar design to the Whitehall memorial, was unveiled in MacCarthy Square.

In Bathurst the West African Frontier Force barracks have been converted into Government offices. The soldiers are now quartered in permanent lines at Cape St. Mary, where spacious cantonments have been built facing the sea. There are four blocks of barracks for the men, each private having a separate room, and the officers' mess was completed towards the end of the year.

The Government has provided a reading and recreation room, for the African community, in the centre of the town, and two cement tennis courts have been finished during the year.

In June a Commissioners' Conference was held as in 1921, and it has now become an annual event.

Committees were engaged towards the end of the year on the revision of the Standing Orders and the regrading of the clerical staff.

C. R. M. WORKMAN,

Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst,

17*th May*, 1923.

The following Appendices are printed :—

(1) List of principal firms trading in the Gambia.

(2) List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

Publications on the Gambia.

" The Gambia Colony," F. B. Archer (St. Bride's Press). 1905.

" The Gambia," H. Reeve (Smith, Elder). 1912.

Annual Trade Report of the Colony, 1921, obtainable from the Crown Agents.

APPENDIX I.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade :—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any).
*African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
*Barthes and Lesieur ...	,, ,,	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
*Bathurst Trading Co. Ltd.	,, ,,	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
*Compagnie Francaise de l'Afrique Occidentale.	,, ,,	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
*Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	,, ,,	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
*Gambia Trading Co., Ltd.	Buckle Street	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
*Maurel Frères	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
*Louis Vezia & Cie. ...	,, ,,	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
*Palmine, Ltd.	,, ,,	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
Anton Blain	,, ,,	——

*Members of the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX II.

List of Barristers and Solicitors.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and vice-versa.

*S. J. Foster, M.A., B.C.L.(Oxon)., Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

*I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham)., Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

†G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. †Trade Mark Agent.

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The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

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No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
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1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,
1128	St. Vincent	,,
1129	St. Helena	,,
1130	Fiji	,,
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921–1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	,,
1151	Uganda	,,
1152	Somaliland	,,
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate (April-December)	,,
1154	Gold Coast	,,
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	,,
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,

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No. 1201.

GAMBIA

Report for 1923

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1160)

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PREFACE.

The Gambia is the smallest but the oldest of the possessions of Great Britain in Africa. For centuries past it has been the resort of mariners, but it was not until Elizabethan days that our sea-power enabled us to plant outposts here.

The first book to arouse the interest of our nation in this part of the world was that entitled "The Discovery of the River Gambra and the Golden Trade of the Ethiopians. Also the commerce with a Great Black Merchant called Buckar Sano and his report of the Houses covered with Gold and other Strange Observations for the Good of our Country. Set down as they were collected in travelling part of the year 1620 and 1621 by Richard Jobson, gent." This book was the outcome of the Charter granted by King James I to the "Company of Adventurers of London trading in Africa," which established Fort James, our first settlement ashore on the Dark Continent. A century later the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered company administration, however, was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the company, it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown. Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

* NOTE.—A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861 [Cd. 7622-53].

I.—Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years have been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£
1919	180,585	143,451	231,028
1920	268,788	171,160	328,657
1921	183,201	225,461	286,396
1922	204,244	430,312	99,687
1923	407,581	211,316	295,951

The ordinary revenue for the year 1923 amounted to £229,688, to which has been added the demonetization loan of £177,893.

Customs duties brought in £161,877; the *ad valorem* duties produced £36,515, and the amount received from the 10 per cent. duty on cotton piece-goods showed a decided increase over that for 1922—£23,270 as against £15,040.

The duty on kola nuts brought in £37,301, and the duty on tobacco produced £15,308. The raising of the duty on unmanufactured tobacco from 6d. to 9d. a pound by Resolution of Legislative Council in November came too late to affect materially the revenue in 1923.

The duty on spirits dropped from £6,054 in 1922 to £4,213.

The loan from the West African Currency Board to cover the loss on the demonetization of the five franc piece was reduced by £30,000 during the year.

II.—Trade and Agriculture.

(*a*) *Trade.*

The year 1923 showed an improvement over 1922, the total value of the Colony's trade inwards and outwards (exclusive of specie) being £1,674,322, an increase of £213,057 over 1922 notwithstanding the fall in prices of many articles of commerce.

Of cotton piece-goods eight and a half-million yards were imported, an increase of three million yards over 1922.

Great Britain supplied 98·37 per cent. of the total.

The bulk of biscuits and wheaten flour came from France; tobacco, kerosene and petrol from the United States of America direct.

More than half the total importation (4,605 tons) of rice was supplied from Germany, the freight rates being lower from Hamburg to Bathurst than from London.

61,394 gallons of wine, nearly all from France, showed an increase of 16,096 gallons over 1922.

(15013) Wt.6755/417 1000 7/24 Harrow G. 94

Of the principal articles of import three only exhibit a decrease in quantity, viz., kola nuts, soap and spirits.

The volume as well as the value of imports was greater than in 1922.

Imports amounted to £790,013 or £136,592 above 1922.

Exports amounted to £884,309 or £76,465 above 1922.

The total exportation of groundnuts amounted to 64,178 tons. This is below the average of the past ten years. 47½ per cent. went to England and 39½ per cent. to France. The trade in hides, once considerable, has now dwindled to a negligible quantity and shows no sign of recovery.

(*b*) *Agriculture.*

The Agriculture Department has now taken over the quarters of the Naval Wireless Station at Cape St. Mary and has established a seed farm and plant nurseries there.

The unusually heavy rainfall caused fungoid diseases to be more prevalent than usual during the ripening period of the groundnut crop.

The employment of Produce Inspectors has not been a success and has not been supported by the merchants, at whose request the system was introduced. A new scheme is to be tried next year in the hope of improving the interior quality of the staple product of the Colony.

A large falling-off in the number of " strange farmers " from Senegal somewhat reduced the total output. Efforts are being directed to encourage the inhabitants of the Gambia to rely on themselves instead of on their neighbours.

At the headquarters of the Department attention is being paid to the raising of improved varieties of seed for distribution throughout the Protectorate, as well as to the introduction of new crops, in the hope of eventually establishing new industries.

Problems connected with soil improvement, manurial requirements of the crops now grown, and the control of pests and diseases affecting them are also being investigated.

In the North Bank Province the cattle plague carried off in some districts so much as 80 per cent. of the stock. The disease was exactly the same as that which occurred in 1917 in the South Bank Province, which was identified as contagious pleuro-pneumonia.

III.—Land and Climate.

The areas in the Protectorate known as public lands are leased in small parcels for not more than 21 years; 160 grants were issued during the year, 12 of which were licences for wharves.

A theodolite traverse survey and azimuth of Kossema was completed during the year, and several new markets have been opened at centres of trade.

A covered market has been built at Kuntaur, the largest town in MacCarthy Island Province. An increase in the applications for land is anticipated in the coming year, as occupiers of land for trading purposes are now being instructed that the grant of a trading licence does not give authority for the occupation of land.

The meteorological returns for Bathurst and Georgetown were as follows :—

	Average max. shade.	Average min. shade.	Average mean.	Rainfall.
Bathurst ...	92·2°F.	65·2°F.	78·7°F.	65·53 in.
Georgetown ...	101·5°F.	65·5°F.	83·5°F.	36·07 in.

The highest maxium shade temperature was 110°F., in the month of April, at Georgetown, and the heaviest rainfall recorded in one month was 27½ inches in Bathurst.

The wet season of 1923 was exceptional, being 22·57 inches in excess of the average annual rainfall for the last 40 years.

IV.—Education.

During the year 1923 there were 1,428 children in attendance at the ordinary elementary schools in Bathurst, 240 at the Mohammedan school in Bathurst, and 94 at the Georgetown schools.

The greatest difficulty is still felt by all the Missionary Societies in securing suitable teachers.

The salaries now offered are far in advance of those paid five years ago, but the reluctance on the part of likely lads to take up teaching as a profession is as marked as ever.

Parents show but little interest in educational matters, and many heads of families leave Bathurst with their children to go up river during the trading season. Hygiene classes have been held by the Medical Officer of Health, and an Officer of the Gambia Police Force has given instruction in physical training to some of the teachers and older children in the various schools.

There is little open space in Bathurst for playgrounds, but every Wednesday afternoon MacCarthy Square is reserved for the use of the school children, amongst whom cricket and football competitions are being started.

The results of the annual examinations were more satisfactory than in the preceding year, but the methods of teaching English still leave much to be desired.

Far too high a percentage of pupils leave school before they have acquired a satisfactory minimum of education, and in the absence of a compulsory system this cannot be prevented. As none of these boys take up farming pursuits, and very few learn a trade, the number of would-be clerks is far in excess of the demand.

V.—Communications.

(*a*) *Shipping.*

The number of vessels entered was 296 and of vessels cleared 299 with an aggregate of 1,052,982 net tons, of which three-fifths were British.

The passenger rates by the cargo steamers of Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, Limited, which conduct the passenger and mail services to and from the Colony, were reduced during the year from £42 to £34, as against the pre-war rate of £22.

The number of German vessels entered and cleared at this port has increased from 40 in 1913 to 74 in 1923.

The cargo facilities and passenger accommodation provided by the German ships, as well as their punctuality, are far in advance of any other ships calling here.

(*b*) *Marine Department.*

The steamer, "Prince of Wales," which was purchased by Government in 1922, made 23 trips up the river during the year, the distance run being 12,542 miles.

The "Vampire" went 14 times up the river, the mileage being 9,074. This ship was fitted with a new boiler and had in consequence to be laid up for some months.

The "Mansa Kila Ba" made 14 trips, and the mileage covered was 4,211. A new starboard engine was installed in this vessel.

The launch "Waterwitch," which is used by the Commissioners of the Upper River Provinces, was overhauled during the year.

(*c*) *Posts and Telegraphs Department.*

Two travelling post offices serve wharf towns up the river, and there are four land post offices.

The old issue of postage stamps bearing only the portrait of the King was destroyed.

Forty-seven mails were received from Europe, and thirty-four despatched to Europe during the year.

A monthly letter-mail service with Dakar has been maintained.

The letters received during the year numbered 128,168, and the newspapers 67,463.

The new telephone system, which was commenced during 1923, was practically completed by the end of the year.

Wireless communication is maintained between Bathurst and Georgetown during the trade season.

Wireless communication with ships at sea was established in June.

Wireless messages sent during the year totalled 1,053.

The Savings Bank Branch was transferred from the Treasury to the Post Office at the beginning of the year.

An extension to the Post Office building, a double-storied concrete annexe, was completed in July, and the administrative, wireless and telephone sections were transferred to it.

VI.—The Protectorate.

The five Provinces have now five Travelling Commissioners and two Assistants, and this year for the first time each Province has had a Commissioner in residence throughout the year. It has not been found possible to build permanent headquarters for each Commissioner, but compounds of a better bush-type than formerly have been erected for the rainy season.

There is still a balance of £45,400 due from the Protectorate natives to the Government on account of the rice and seed-nut debt contracted in the year 1920, about one-half of it having been paid.

In the Upper River Province the Gambia Company carried out a short route march. The roads in this Province have been improved, and a considerable trade is done over the border.

In MacCarthy Island Province a giraffe was captured and sent to the Zoological Gardens, but unfortunately it died on the voyage.

In the South Bank Province lions are becoming troublesome again, and, in the North Bank, hyænas. A man was killed by a pack of them whilst walking at night near Farafenie. Nothing was left of him but his head, his kettle and his shirt.

Mousa Molloh, ex-King of Fulladu, who was deported some years ago, was repatriated this year, and has returned to end his days amongst his own people.

VII.—Vital Statistics and Sanitation.

(*a*) *Public Health.*

No case of plague was reported in 1923.

The difficulty experienced in successfully prosecuting anti-mosquito measures is due largely to the native inspector's lack of qualification. A definite course of graded instruction with promotion and higher remuneration after examination is required.

During July, instead of the previous ten years' average of 7·6 inches, 27·49 inches of rain were recorded, and this was followed by 24·10 inches in August.

About a quarter of the 400 acres covered by Bathurst is liable to annual flooding; this year the proportion was greatly increased and the period prolonged.

The standard of health in Bathurst was lowered, probably owing to the excessive damp. The increase of infant mortality, from an average of seven per month for the first six months of the year to 29 in July, speaks for itself.

Cases of smallpox occurred from March to July, but, owing to vaccination and immediate measures for isolation, the outbreak was not of a serious character.

The general death-rate of the Colony was 43 per thousand, and the birth-rate 26 per thousand. Only thrice in the last 20 years have the births been more numerous than the deaths. There were a great many deaths from tetanus.

Infant mortality during 1923 showed a slight improvement, there being 498 deaths as compared with 502 in 1922.

A course of lectures on hygiene was given by the Medical Authorities to School Teachers and Goverment Inspectors.

The African population of Bathurst is about 9,000.

An Ordinance to prevent the adulteration of bread or flour and to standardize the weight of loaves, and ensure that bread is baked only in approved and licensed bakehouses, was passed in 1923.

(*b*) *Medical.*

There are five Medical Officers on the staff, one of whom resides in the Protectorate during most of the year, with his headquarters at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island.

Out-patients treated at the Bathurst Hospital numbered 8,712 and in-patients 596.

There was an epidemic of influenza during October and November, but the case mortality happily was small.

A Mother and Child Welfare Committee has been started, and Clinics in connection with such welfare work have been instituted at the Hospital.

Two additional African nurses have been appointed, and a new maternity ward has been erected.

VIII.—Judicial.

(*a*) *Supreme Court.*

The cases tried in the Supreme Court numbered 38, as compared with 56 in 1922. This decrease is partly attributable to the increased powers recently given to the Travelling Commissioners, and partly to the gradual return to more prosperous conditions.

Offences against property preponderated, and it is doubtful whether sentences of imprisonment alone for such offences will ever prove a sufficient deterrent.

The Supreme Court Ordinance was amended in April to provide for a continuous session of the Court from the first week in November until the end of June.

There were 150 fewer cases tried in the Police Court than in 1922.

842 cases were tried by the Native Tribunals of the various districts in the Protectorate.

The number of actions on the civil side of the Supreme Court was 56, as compared with 37 in 1922.

(*b*) *Legislation.*

There were 16 Ordinances passed in 1923. The most important of these were those dealing with the increased powers of the Travelling Commissioners; the registration of Trade Marks, and the pensions of Government officials.

(*c*) *Police.*

Approval has been given for the appointment of an African Inspector and four sub-Inspectors. Great difficulty is still experienced in obtaining as recruits men whose standard of education is high enough to qualify them for eventual promotion to the senior ranks.

The Force was brought up to strength during the year, and an additional police post at Kossema was opened.

The duties of the Government House Guard, formerly performed by the West African Frontier Force, are now carried out by the Police, owing to the Gambia Company being permanently stationed at Cape St. Mary.

The cost of the Force for 1923 was just under £10,000, a reduction of £1,000 on the previous year's expenditure.

The town of Bathurst is patrolled regularly by the Police, but thieving and larceny is rife, and unless the offenders are caught red-handed they are seldom apprehended later, and the recovery of stolen property is exceptional.

There are 15 premises licensed for the sale of liquor in Bathurst, but no case of drunkenness on licensed premises has occurred during the year.

The registration of domestic servants and the duties in regard to passports are now in the hands of the Police.

Blue uniform instead of khaki was issued to the Force in November, adding much to their smartness. Boots have been discontinued, and as a consequence the appearance of the men has been improved, and their usefulness, as well as their comfort, increased.

(*d*) *Prison.*

290 prisoners were admitted in 1923 : this was 38 less than in 1922. There were a number of cases of beri-beri in the early part of 1923 ; but, in consequence of a change of diet from polished to unpolished rice, and of the removal of part of the prison to a site on the Cape St. Mary Road, and the provision of increased quantities of green vegetables and " sour " obtained from the garden maintained in connection with the new prison, the disease appears to have been eliminated from the Gaol.

The prison accommodation was increased by the erection of some buildings at the Cape Road Prison capable of holding 130 men without congestion, and further improvements are under consideration.

The system of using policemen specially detached for duty as warders is still in force and has worked well.

The daily average of prisoners during the year was 89 as against 93 in 1922.

IX.—Public Works.

No large programme was laid down for the year, and the value of unallocated stores was reduced to £7,300.

The wages of artisans tended to fall, mainly owing to shortage of demand by the commercial firms, who did very little building work during the year. Local wages were, however, too high for the quality of the output.

The principal repair work done by the Department during the year was the renovation of Government House, which required a complete overhaul from cellars to roof.

A system of history sheets has been started which will not only give a financial record of each building, but will provide a basis for comparison between the approximate costs of various types, and will eventually show which type of building is the most economical to erect and maintain.

In addition to the Post Office, extensions have been added to the hospital and gaol on the Cape St. Mary Road.

The transport service is standardized on Cubitt motor cars and lorries, the total mileage performed being 39,000 miles.

The horses and carts formerly used by the Public Works have now been handed over to the Board of Health.

The disused portion of the Old General Cemetery has been cleared. This will render available some 7½ acres of the best ground in Bathurst.

X.—General.

In March the Colony was visited by Rear-Admiral Sir. R. W. Bentinck, K.C.M.G., C.B., on H.M.S. " Lowestoft," flagship of the Africa station, and three calls were made during the year by the gunboats " Thistle " and " Dwarf."

The new flagship of the Africa station, H.M.S. " Birmingham," visited the Colony in December, but the Admiral was not aboard.

The German howitzer, presented by the War Office as a war trophy, was placed in position facing Government Wharf.

In accordance with the re-grading system of the African staff, examinations were held in June and November.

A revision of the Standing Orders was issued.

Empire Day was observed as usual as a public holiday. In the morning the schools assembled in MacCarthy Square to hear an address from the Governor, and also the messages from Their Majesties the King and Queen. In the afternoon athletic sports were held, and the day ended with the presentation of prizes and trophies—the Educational trophy reverting to the Roman Catholic School and the Sports trophy to one of the Wesleyan Schools.

Bathurst, Gambia,
May, 1924.

The following Appendices are printed :—

(1) Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the year 1923 for the Colony of the Gambia.

(2) List of principal firms trading in the Gambia.

(3) List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

Publications on the Gambia.

" The Gambia Colony," F. B. Archer (St. Bride's Press). 1905.

" The Gambia," H. Reeve (Smith, Elder). 1912.

Annual Trade Report of the Colony, 1922, obtainable from the Crown Agents.

APPENDIX I.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1923 FOR THE GAMBIA.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government Officers were furnished to the Government of the Gambia during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts. In addition, information relating to Gambia products was supplied to enquirers.

Groundnuts.—Groundnuts grown in the South Bank Province from seed supplied by the Philippine Bureau of Agriculture were found to contain a satisfactory amount of oil. They compared favourably with the West African groundnuts commonly shipped to the United Kingdom and would be saleable at about the same price. These nuts were considerably smaller than those referred to in the report for 1922, which were stated to have been grown at Bathurst from similar seed.

Castor Oil Seed.—A sample of castor oil seed received for examination gave a satisfactory yield of oil of normal character and appearance. Consignments of similar seed would be saleable in the United Kingdom at about the same price as Bombay castor seed.

Information was supplied as to the cultivation, preparation and marketing of castor seed, together with particulars of machines suitable for shelling and decorticating the seed.

Cassava.—An enquirer in the Colony was furnished with the names of manufacturers in the United Kingdom interested in supplies of cassava products, and also of firms willing to undertake the sale of consignments from the Gambia.

Fibres.—A sample of *Hibiscus cannabinus* fibre was found to be of exceptional length, of good strength and of satisfactory composition. Merchants who were consulted by the Imperial Institute were of opinion that if properly prepared and free from pieces of bark, the fibre should be readily saleable in this country.

An enquiry was received from a firm operating in the Gambia with reference to Arghan Fibre. Information was furnished regarding the identity of the plant, its mode of occurrence and the nature of the soils on which it grows, the method of preparing the fibre, and the possibility of obtaining suckers for trial cultivation.

Soils.—In continuation of the investigation of soils from different parts of the Gambia, detailed reports were furnished by the Institute on the composition and physical condition of samples of soil and sub-soil taken in the MacCarthy Island Province, and recommendations were made as to the most suitable manures. One of the samples represented a much heavier type of soil than any of the series examined.

Miscellaneous.—Information was also supplied to enquirers in the Colony on the following subjects:—Makers of agricultural machinery; makers of machinery for the preparation of palm oil; and firms from whom seeds for trial cultivation could be obtained.

Publications.—A report on the operations of the Imperial Institute was published as No. 1 of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute, Vol. XXI (1923), in which reference was made to the work conducted for the Gambia in recent years.

Gambia Court.—The area devoted to exhibits from the Gambia has been extended and now occupies 550 square feet. An additional show-case has been provided for the exhibition of specimens of native pottery, basket-work, etc.

A portable photograph screen has been supplied to separate the Gambia Court from that of Sierra Leone. One side of this screen is utilised for photographs of scenes in the Gambia. A contour relief map of Africa has been hung in the Court.

Lectures on the Gambia have been given in the Court by the Guide-Lecturers to school parties, and by Colonel Nangle, F.R.G.S., to members of the general public. Specimens of Gambia products have been supplied to schools.

No new exhibits were received from the Colony during the year.

APPENDIX II.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade:—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any).
*African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
*Barthes and Lesieur ...	,, ,,	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
*Bathurst Trading Co. Ltd.	,, ,,	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
*Compagnie Francaise de l'Afrique Occidentale.	,, ,,	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
*Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	,, ,,	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
*Gambia Trading Co., Ltd.	Buckle Street	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
*Maurel Frères	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
*Louis Vezia & Co. ...	,, ,,	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
*Palmine, Ltd.	,, ,,	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
Antoine Blain	,, ,,	———

*Members of the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX III.

List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and vice-versa.

*S. J. Foster, M.A., B.C.L.(Oxon)., Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

*I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

*M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham)., Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

†G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. †Trade Mark Agent.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1167	Bermuda	1922
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	1922
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922–1923
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States..	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands..	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	1922–1923

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-Seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	[illegible]es of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1249.

GAMBIA.

Report for 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1201)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
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1925.

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No. **1249.**

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1924.*

Preface.

The first descriptive accounts of the Gambia River date from the middle of the 15th century when Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the river in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some forty miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition fitted out in 1481 was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588, a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the " free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise " to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the charter which was made in 1591 is described in Hakluyt. The French, it appears, had then traded in these parts for above thirty years, but the " Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia which is a river of secret trade and riches concealled by the Portugals." The power of Portugal was then on the wane, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration, however, was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown. Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

* NOTE.—A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861 [Cd. 7622–53].

I.—Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years have been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Excess of Assets over Liabilities.*
	£	£	£
1920 ...	268,788	171,160	328,657
1921 ...	183,201	225,461	286,396
1922 ...	204,244	430,312 (*a*)	99,687
1923 ...	407,581 (*b*)	211,316	295,951
1924 ...	208,613	203,635	300,929

(*a*) includes £187,893 loss on demonetization of five franc pieces.
(*b*) includes £177,893 part of loan from West African Currency Board.

Customs receipts, which represent 64 per cent. of the total revenue of the Colony, brought in £133,425 against £161,877 the year before. Out of this sum the four chief items showed the following reductions on 1923 returns :—

	1924.	1923.
	£	£
Groundnuts	57,572	60,622
Kola nuts	29,231	37,301
Ad valorem duties	18,867	36,515
Tobacco	11,172	15,308

The large decrease of £17,648 in *ad valorem* duties is accounted for, as to £15,022 by a reduction in the importation of cotton goods owing to large stocks being held at the beginning of the year; as to the balance by the new classification of certain items formerly on an *ad valorem* basis, now dutiable at a specific rate.

Light dues at the rate of a shilling a ton have been charged on all vessels laden with cargo for Bathurst since the beginning of the year and with Buoyage and Wharfage dues have yielded £3,914.

£22,000 was paid as part redemption of the loan from the West African Currency Board. The original debt has now been reduced to £125,893.

II.—Trade and Agriculture.

(*a*) Trade.

The following table shows the balance of trade exclusive of specie during the last three years :—

Year.	*Imports.*	*Exports.*	*Balance of Exports over Imports.*
	£	£	£
1922 ...	653,421	807,844	154,423
1923 ...	790,013	884,309	94,296
1924 ...	669,700	893,359	223,659

(18823) Wt.7085/505 1000 7/25 Harrow G. 94

Imports.

The difference in the value of imports between 1924 and 1923 is mainly due to cotton piece-goods, of which only 2,947,529 yards, valued at £104,893, were imported, as against 8,476,219 yards valued at £232,770 in 1923.

In spite of the crops grown locally in the river swamps, a large quantity of imported rice was consumed in 1924 amounting to 7,490 tons, valued at £126,982, compared with 4,606 tons the previous year.

The United States continue to supply most of the non-edible oils, of which nearly 30,000 gallons more than last year were brought in.

87·76 per cent. of wines came from France as well as most of the biscuits, flour, sugar and soap.

The British share of the import trade, 54·31 per cent., was 15·16 per cent. less than that of 1923, France coming second with 16·97 per cent. and Germany third with 15·75 per cent.

Exports.

Of the total value of exports, groundnuts account for 96·48 per cent.; 54·12 per cent. went to England, and 33·79 per cent. to France. The low price of £10 a ton or 2*s*. 6*d*. a bushel offered to the farmers by the merchants in January at the commencement of the buying season, when more attractive prices were offered by their French competitors in Senegal, was perhaps the main factor in the crop being smaller than usual. Liverpool quotations for Gambia groundnuts averaged 4*s*. 3*d*. a bushel.

(*b*) AGRICULTURE.

The work of laying out the new Agricultural and Botanical Station at Cape St. Mary, began on 1st January and, by the end of June, 16 acres of bush land had been hand-ploughed or forked.

Plant nurseries have been established and two large glass houses have been built for raising special economic plants. A section of land has been divided into ten quarter-acre plots for ascertaining the manurial requirements of the groundnut.

Zaria, Philippine Red, Dixie Grant, Senegal and local varieties of nuts are being sown for experiment. A fumigatorium has been built on the station for the purpose of dealing with all imported plants and seeds.

Agricultural conditions in the Gambia differ mainly from those of other West African Colonies owing to the absence of hinterland. Practically the whole of the Protectorate lands consist of a narrow strip of low-lying land, six and a quarter miles broad, following the Gambia River along its course on either bank for a distance of 250 miles.

The population, which is unevenly distributed in the Protectorate, is 210,530, or 51 to the square mile.

Effective labour is to a large extent migratory and is diminishing as the following return of " Strange Farmers " for the last five years shows :—

Year.	*Strange Farmers.*
1920	24,150
1921	22,058
1922	20,566
1923	17,383
1924	14,188

One cause of the decrease was attributed to the unsatisfactory system of produce inspection which has now been discontinued, but it is an undoubted fact that railway construction in Senegal, which will eventually enclose the Protectorate, has much to do with the dwindling numbers of " Strange Farmers " who enter the Protectorate each year to cultivate groundnuts and return to their homes with the proceeds of their labours. Instead of the system of inspection compulsory screening of nuts has been established with most satisfactory results.

Sixty-three buying stations have carried on business, as against seventy-five in the previous season.

It is hoped that with careful selection of seed the crops in future years will surpass in quantity, as they already do in quality, those of the past.

The tonnage and values of the last five years have been :—

Year.	*Tonnage.*	*Value.* £
1920	84,037	2,322,032
1921	59,175	628,901
1922	64,800	780,889
1923	64,178	864,885
1924	60,622	861,925

Palm kernels have given better results than last year, 678 tons of a value of £10,571 having been exported, as against 392 tons of a value of £5,640 in 1923. The oil palm is being destroyed by bush fires and the mature palms are being exterminated by over-tapping for palm wine. Unless prompt action is taken palm kernels will, as in the case of rubber, cease to appear in the exports, but the difficulty of enforcing the prohibition of tapping the palms is obvious.

The lime tree is found growing under semi-wild conditions in the Protectorate and experiments are being made at Cape St. Mary with a view to the establishment of an industry in this fruit in the Gambia.

III.—Land and Climate.

(*a*) Land.

Ownership is hereditary in the Protectorate. Where land is not held or claimed by a native, it can be rented from the Government for a term, but freehold rights are not given. The land belongs to the people and each farmer is really the owner, so long as he continues to cultivate it.

Forests are non-existent and there are no European plantations.

A survey was made at Chargi in the South Bank Province in connection with a frontier dispute, and the line was delimited by iron pickets for later investigation by a Boundary Commission.

About 50 surveys for issue of title were made during the year and 161 titles were entered, consisting of 42 grants in fee simple (41 of them in Bathurst on old land applications), 104 leases and 15 wharf licences.

The rent roll of the Government in 1924 was £5,140.

(*b*) Climate.

Meteorological returns for Bathurst and Georgetown are as follows :—

	Average max. shade.	Average min. shade.	Range.	Mean.	Rainfall in inches.
Bathurst ...	92·5	63·7	29	78·1	56·46
Georgetown ...	100·6	66·6	34	83·6	47·01

The highest maximum shade temperature was 110° F. in April at Georgetown.

The heaviest rainfall in one month was 26·14 inches in August at Bathurst.

The average of rainfall in Bathurst during the last 40 years has been :—

1884–1894	51·56 inches.
1895–1904	46·97 ,,
1905–1914	44·47 ,,
1915–1924	45·35 ,,

Though considerably above the average of the last 40 years, the total rainfall in 1924 was nine inches less than in 1923. The figures for the last five years being :—

1920	34·29 inches.
1921	35·12 ,,
1922	45·71 ,,
1923	65·38 ,,
1924	56·46 ,,

IV.—Education.

During the year 1924 there were 1,688 children on the register of the elementary schools of the Gambia, 218 of whom attended the Mohammedan school and 82 the schools at Georgetown.

There are secondary schools also, maintained by the Wesleyans, and a Roman Catholic school for girls. The Gambia children are not less intelligent than their brothers and sisters in other Colonies, but indifferent teaching prevents most of them from attaining a satisfactory standard, apart from the fact that parents too often take their sons and daughters up river with them during the trading season and often remove them from school at an early age to work in the home.

The school attendance was again bad this year mainly owing to sickness and the inclement weather experienced during the rains.

Two medical inspections were carried out and physical exercises have been taken up with keen interest.

A football competition has caused immense enthusiasm amongst the scholars, but none of the schools have adequate playgrounds. It is unfortunate that when they were built years ago sufficient space was not allowed for recreation purposes.

It is hoped that the reclamation scheme will provide a remedy.

The results of the annual examinations were not as good as last year, especially so in hygiene.

At the teachers' examination there was only one successful candidate out of 12.

School libraries have been started so that the older children now have the chance of reading standard authors.

Two boys at present hold scholarships from the Government and are being educated at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone.

V.—Communications.

(*a*) Shipping.

The total of British, French, American, and German tonnage during the last four years has been :—

Year.	*British.*	*French.*	*American.*	*German.*	*Total.*
1921 ...	440,522	55,663	66,896	16,648	688,740
1922 ...	556,283	81,358	22,365	67,998	835,663
1923 ...	593,772	100,486	60,126	165,804	1,052,892
1924 ...	643,796	92,369	93,446	158,060	1,100,729

(*b*) Marine Department.

The steamer " Prince of Wales," which was purchased by the Government in 1922, made 25 trips up the river during the

year, covering a distance of 12,760 miles. The " Prince of Wales " and " Vampire " run a regular service, the latter having made 23 trips with a total distance run of 11,530 miles.

Both vessels are well patronised for passenger traffic and freight.

Repairs of any importance have to be done at Dakar, but, when the slipway at Bathurst has been built, it will be possible to accommodate ships up to 400 tons.

The Marine Workshop and Store, close to the site of the slipway, was finished towards the end of the year and the machinery installed. The Department is now training its own apprentice engineers, both afloat and in the workshop.

The lighted buoys at the entrance of the river have worked well and are brought in every six months for testing and overhaul.

(*c*) Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The correspondence dealt with during the past year shows a gradual rise.

Year.	*Number of Articles (letters, postcards, etc.)*
1921	192,049
1922	208,938
1923	219,104
1924	229,938

6,681 parcels were received and despatched.

New steel mail boxes have been provided at the Bathurst Post Office and are a great improvement on the old wooden type.

Money orders to the amount of £15,079 and postal orders to the amount of £6,871 were issued from the four land offices and the two travelling post offices on the " Prince of Wales " and " Vampire."

The Savings Bank deposits have fallen to £1,509, the lowest figure recorded in the past 25 years.

Wireless communication with Georgetown has been carried on throughout the year. The station at Basse was closed down during the rains. 2,231 messages in all were sent.

The new Central Battery Telephone system is now in good working order and 75 telephones have been installed.

VI.—The Protectorate.

Formerly it was said that one farm of nuts bought two of corn, but to-day the value of corn is proportionately so much higher that more corn and less nuts have been grown in some parts of the Provinces.

In the North Bank Province, village seed-nut stores have been built with good results. Every farmer at harvest time puts in three measures and just before the rains he receives back two for planting. The third belongs to the village and is distributed by the Headman.

In Kombo nuts are now bought by weight instead of by the bushel. The innovation has proved unpopular as the majority of farmers only understand the bushel measures and are quite ignorant of the use of scales. Now that Bathurst merchants send lorries to transport the nuts, many donkeys have been sold into French country. They, as well as the Kombo cattle, have again been gradually increasing in numbers, but it will be many years before the herds approach in size those which were seen before the plague in 1917.

At McCarthy Island the mainland groundnut trade from Georgetown has almost ceased on account of lighters and cutters being no longer employed by the merchants to transport nuts from the mainland villages of the South Bank Province to that town.

A chain ferry at Boraba is under consideration, as better prices are obtainable at Georgetown than in the neighbouring district.

The importance of Georgetown has been eclipsed of recent years by Kuntaur, which is the principal up-river shipping port. The depth of the stream here allows ocean-going steamers to come right alongside the wharves. The place, which contains only a few hundred people at other times, swells into a town of several thousand inhabitants during the trading season and presents a problem in regard to sanitation which the authorities are taking steps to solve.

VII.—Vital Statistics and Sanitation.

(*a*) Statistics.

In Bathurst there are 218 Europeans and 9,741 Africans and Syrians. 291 births were recorded during the year and 513 deaths, giving a birth and death rate of 30·90 and 52·66 per thousand respectively.

The infant mortality rate was 471 per thousand, as against 498 in 1923.

(*b*) Public Health.

Five cases of smallpox occurred, but none of plague in any part of the Colony or Protectorate.

Throughout the year an intensive campaign against rats was carried on in Bathurst. Rat infestation of all premises is now compulsorily notifiable.

Sand filling operations at the Cemetery have provided a large area of new burying ground and have also obliterated mosquito breeding places which have contributed largely to malaria in Bathurst.

(*c*) Medical.

In-patients at the Colonial Hospital numbered 605, out-patients 13,609.

A Medical Officer and a Dispenser are stationed at Georgetown and a Dispenser at the West African Frontier Force cantonments; the rest of the medical staff are at headquarters.

Since the correction of the dietary at the Gaol, no cases of beri-beri have occurred, so that it is justifiable to claim that the " nutritional " theory is sound.

A serious outbreak of epidemic, diagnosed as relapsing fever, broke out in three villages in the North Bank Province, causing the deaths of 685 people out of a total of 2,790.

VIII.—Judicial.

(*a*) Criminal Statistics.

The Supreme Court disposed of 33 cases, as against 38 in 1923.

Twenty-five of them were for offences against property, nine of which were traders' cases under the Criminal Law Ordinance of 1855. An unusual charge was that against a woman who was convicted of forging a cheque.

In the Police Court there was a considerable increase in the number of persons brought up. Larceny and cognate offences still figure far too prominently. The number of summonses for default in payment of local rates was chiefly due to trade depression.

In the Protectorate Tribunals the commonest offences are assaults, petty larceny and cattle thefts.

Fines, as usual, continue to be the general form of penalty inflicted.

(*b*) Legislation.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed in 1924.

The most important were those dealing with Customs, the Adulteration of Produce, and the Repatriation of Aliens. The Adulteration of Produce Ordinance deals with compulsory screening of nuts.

Regulations concerning public health, the police, and motor traffic were made by the Governor in Council.

(*c*) Police.

Four sub-inspectors, appointed early in the year, have added to the efficiency of the Force, which has been maintained at the authorised strength of 2 Officers, 8 Warrant Officers and 146 N.C.O.s and men.

Six boys were taken on as band apprentices. They have been taught music by the Bandmaster and, considering the time they have been under tuition, they play extraordinarily well.

A section of constables are trained as firemen, but no fires of a serious nature occurred during the 12 months under review.

No case of drunkenness was reported in any of the 17 premises licensed for the sale of liquor.

The Domestic Servants Registration Ordinance, which has been in force since 1922, is carried out by the Police and has had beneficial results.

During the whole of 1924 only one case of theft was brought against a registered servant by his master out of 308 on the books.

(*d*) Prison.

Three hundred prisoners were admitted, with a daily average of 102. Their health has been much improved by the use of unpolished rice and vegetables from the prison garden.

A female prison has been added and quarters for the matron.

The prisoners are employed on public works, wood cutting and splitting, gardening, and cleaning of Government buildings and grounds.

IX.—Public Works.

The four large schemes for Bathurst, namely, Drainage, Fire Protection, Electric Light, and Slipway, have progressed so slowly that the construction stage will not be reached until next year.

The drainage scheme includes the purchase of a dredger and the raising of low-lying areas about 2 feet above low-tide level. These areas have always been subject to flooding during the rainy season and it is proposed to remove the inhabitants of the tidal swamp areas and to provide accommodation for them in the reclaimed area of some 25 acres at Half Die.

The protection of Bathurst against fire has been a matter of urgency for long past. It has now been decided to raise the pressure in the Bathurst water mains by the use of pumps. The normal pressure in, and capacity of, the mains is inadequate for this purpose. A continuous supply of water will be ensured by the provision of a tank of 150,000 gallons capacity.

The installation of an electric light and power plant capable of meeting the public and private demands for electricity in Bathurst has been prepared for by the conversion of the Gaol into a central power-house to hold two alternators of 100 kilowatts and one alternator of 50 kilowatts, the machines being coupled direct to semi-Diesel oil engines. Distribution will be by overhead network supplying current at 220 volts with 440 volts between outer wires.

The Slipway at Half Die is designed to deal with ships up to 150 feet in length and of 400 tons dead weight. The attempt to build a slipway in 1914 was rendered abortive by the insecurity of the foundations. Careful investigations and borings have therefore been made during the year to ensure the safety of the superstructure.

The supply of labour, both skilled and unskilled, has been adequate, there being no large works in the Colony to cause a shortage.

The rate of wages of unskilled labour remained constant, while that of skilled labour fell slightly. Whenever possible, work has been done by piece work or petty contract, rather than by day wage labour.

This system has been adopted in the making of furniture from "Conta" wood specially imported from Sierra Leone, there being little suitable wood in the Gambia. It was feared that good cabinet work would be rather beyond the ability of the local native carpenter, but the result has proved otherwise and it is anticipated that the furniture made in the Public Works Department will stand the climate better than the inferior and more expensive imported oak and pine suites.

X.—General.

Three calls were made during the year by the gunboats "Thistle" and "Dwarf," and a short visit was paid by the French man-of-war "Cassiopée."

A successful celebration of Empire Day included an assembly in McCarthy Square of the children attending the various schools in Bathurst, together with the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and Brownies. Athletic sports of a more ambitious nature than formerly were held in the afternoon. The Wesleyans once more obtained the majority of prizes and the Championship flag.

The Reading and Recreation Room for the African Community in the centre of the town, opened by the Government in 1922, was closed as it was hardly ever used by those for whom it was intended. The premises have been handed over to the Public Health Department, and their offices in Buckle Street are now used as the headquarters of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

Part of the old Secretariat has been turned into a Club. Its proximity to the tennis courts makes it a convenient social centre for the town. Accommodation for the staff has been increased by the purchase of an old stone residence in Leman Street.

An incident worthy of mention is the retirement in perfect health of Monsieur Bourquin after forty years' service in Bathurst with the firm of Maurel Frères.

C. R. M. WORKMAN,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
26th May, 1925.

The following Appendices are printed :—

(1) Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the year 1924 for the Colony of the Gambia.

(2) List of principal firms trading in the Gambia.

(3) List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

PUBLICATIONS ON THE GAMBIA.

" The Gambia Colony," F. B. Archer (St. Bride's Press). 1905.

" The Gambia," H. Reeve (Smith, Elder). 1912.

Annual Trade Report of the Colony, 1923, obtainable from the Crown Agents.

Appendix I.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1924 FOR THE GAMBIA.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.

During 1924 the following investigations and enquiries were carried out for the Government of the Gambia:—

"*Oysters*" *from Bintang Creek.*—In continuation of the previous enquiry relating to the "oysters" occurring at the Bintang Creek on the Gambia River, two further sets of specimens were received during 1924. These "oysters," after being salted and dried, are sold in the Bathurst market, but enquiries made by the Imperial Institute in 1921 showed that they would not be saleable in the United Kingdom. It was, however, of interest to establish their identity, and on referring the first specimens to the Natural History Museum it was ascertained that they were not oysters but probably belonged to the group to which the ark-shells (*Arcidæ*) are referred. Further specimens were therefore requested, and three further sets since received from Bintang Creek have each been identified at the Museum as a species of oyster (*Ostrea parasitica*, Gmelin). Another set of specimens obtained from the Gambia River, about a mile above McCarthy Island, were identified at the Museum as a species of Aetheria (probably *A. elliptica*), a fresh-water genus which is widely distributed in Africa.

Groundnuts.—In connection with efforts of the Agricultural Department to improve the quality of the groundnut crop, an enquiry was received from the Department regarding the high percentage of free fatty acids in certain consignments imported into the United Kingdom. The high average of 4·75 per cent. in last year's crop was probably due to the causes mentioned by the Department, viz., the exceptionally heavy rainfall and the prevalence of the fungus *Cercospora personata*. The unusually high figure of 12½ per cent. reported in the case of certain shipments was, however, probably due mainly to the presence of unsound nuts, consisting of rotten nuts, which were said to have been mixed with the sound nuts, and nuts which had suffered from being stored under moist, warm conditions. At the suggestion of the Institute a number of representative samples of Gambia groundnuts were subsequently forwarded in connection with this enquiry and were under examination at the close of the year.

Elephant Grass.—In view of the fact that elephant grass is abundant in the Gambia, an enquiry was received from the Director of the Agricultural Department regarding its utilisation for paper-making. In reply, information was supplied regarding investigations caried out at the Institute with elephant grass from other parts of Africa which indicated that the stems are quite satisfactory for paper-making but that they could not be exported profitably for the purpose. If, however, a pulp-mill were established in the country of origin for the preparation of paper-pulp from the grass it should be possible to market the pulp in Europe in competition with wood-pulp.

Other enquiries dealt with related to the general conditions of life in the Colony.

British Empire Exhibition.

The Imperial Institute was allotted space in H.M. Government Pavilion at Wembley for an exhibit to illustrate its work in promoting the utilisation of the raw materials of the Empire. The nature and scope of the investigations carried out were indicated by selected examples from each of the principal groups of raw materials. A

number of West African products were shown in this exhibit, including the following which are produced in the Gambia:—Oil Palm products; Cotton; Hibiscus fibre and other jute-like fibres; and Kapok.

Publications.

An article on the Agricultural and Forest Resources of the Gambia was published in the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute during the year.

Gambia Court.

The area and position of the Court has not been changed during the year, and no new exhibits have been received for exhibition.

Lectures on the Gambia, with explanation of the products in the Court, have been given to the public and to parties from schools by the Guide Lecturers and by the officers in charge of the collections.

Specimens of Gambia products have been supplied to schools for teaching purposes.

12*th March*, 1925.

Appendix II.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade:—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any).
*African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
*Barthes et Lesieur ...	„ „	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
*Bathurst Trading Co. Ltd.	„ „	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
*Etablissement Maurel et Prom.	„ „	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
*Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	„ „	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
*Gambia Trading Co. ...	Buckle Street	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
*Maurel Frères	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
*Louis Vezia & Co. ...	„ „	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
*Palmine, Ltd.	„ „	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
Antoine Blain	„ „	———

*Members of the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

Appendix III.

List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and vice-versa.

*S. J. Foster, M.A., B.C.L.(Oxon.), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.
*I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.
*M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.
†G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. †Trade Mark Agent.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1220	Uganda	1923
1221	Grenada	,,
1222	British Guiana	,,
1223	St. Vincent	,,
1224	St. Helena	,,
1225	Barbados	1923–1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1228	Hongkong	,,
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923–1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	,,
1235	Straits Settlements	,,
1236	Seychelles	,,
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923–1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1240	St. Lucia	,,
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	,,
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	,,
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923–1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-Seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1306.

GAMBIA.

Report for 1925.

(For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1201 and 1249 respectively, (Price, 6d. each)).

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
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or through any Bookseller.

1926.

Price 9d. net.

No. 1306.

GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1925.*

Preface.

The first descriptive account of the Gambia dates from the middle of the 15th century, when Alvise Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the river in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some forty miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition, fitted out in 1481, was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above thirty years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals." The power of Portugal was, however, on the wane, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown. Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst; which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

* NOTE.—A sketch map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 861 [Cd. 7622–53].

The Royal Visit.

The outstanding occurrence of the year was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the 4th of April. On account of her great draught H.M.S. " Repulse " had to anchor at the mouth of the river, so the royal party was conveyed to Bathurst in the Governor's yacht, being met off the harbour by ten of the river steamers all gaily dressed with bunting. Not only the whole population of Bathurst, but many thousands from the Protectorate had assembled on the beach and in the streets, which were ablaze with colour. The warmth and loyalty of the Prince's reception in this, the most ancient of the West African Colonies, could not have been greater. The behaviour of the biggest and most cheerful assembly of people ever gathered in Bathurst was perfect. At the landing-place a replica of the Old Fort at James Island had been built, and in the Square, whither His Royal Highness proceeded after inspecting the Frontier Guard of Honour, he was met with a deafening welcome. After a visit to the Cenotaph, round which were grouped all the school children of Bathurst, His Royal Highness crossed to the Pavilion. Here, under a canopy of crimson and gold silk, addresses and presentations were made. All the Protectorate Chiefs, with their principal headmen and retainers and minstrels, had been brought down to pay their respects to their future King. It gave them unbounded pleasure when His Royal Highness actually addressed them in a short speech which, when interpreted, all could understand and appreciate. After luncheon at Government House a drive was taken to Cape St. Mary, where the Agricultural Station and the Cantonments are situated. This was followed by a most enthusiastic progress round the principal streets of Bathurst, which were adorned with no less than eight triumphal arches, that of the French Colony being a veritable work of art in the Moorish style.

At the garden party at Government House, to which over 600 guests were invited, a parade of ex-Service men was held. Immense enjoyment was given by the musical performance of the full band of the Royal Marines. The frank and simple courtesy of the Prince's bearing elicited the admiration and affection of all who saw him and left an impression which will never be forgotten in this Colony.

I.—Government Finance.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last four years have been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Loan.*	*Assets over Loan and Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£
1922 ...	243,603	430,312	177,893	99,687
1923 ...	407,581	211,316	147,893	148,058
1924 ...	208,613	203,635	125,893	175,036
1925 ...	189,086	271,836	113,743	104,436

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The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the financial year was £218,180, after writing off £32,546 rice and seed-nut debt, and excluding the liability to the West African Currency Board for the demonetisation of the five-franc piece.

Customs receipts, which represent 61 per cent. of the total real revenue of the Colony, brought in £111,470, against £133,425 the year before. Owing to ground-nuts having yielded the lowest crop for the last nine years, the amount of money in circulation was less than usual, with the result that there was a large falling off in Customs duties, notably in the four chief items :—

	Export Duty Ground-nuts.	*Import Duty Kolas.*	*Ad valorem Duties.*	*Tobacco.*
	£	£	£	£
1923 ...	60,622	37,301	36,515	15,308
1924 ...	57,572	29,231	18,867	11,172
1925 ...	46,124	23,016	16,821	10,748

The revenue from licences has exceeded the estimate by £1,459, mainly on account of the new Ordinance (No. 21 of 1924), which came into force on the 1st of January, 1925, introducing licences to cover all trades and professions in the town of Bathurst.

II.—Trade and Agriculture.

(*a*) Trade.

The following table shows the balance of trade exclusive of specie during the last three years :—

Year.	*Aggregate.*	*Imports c.i.f.*	*Exports f.o.b.*	*Balance of Exports over Imports.*
	£	£	£	£
1923 ...	1,674,322	790,013	884,309	94,296
1924 ...	1,563,059	669,700	893,359	223,659
1925 ...	1,338,548	615,927	722,621	106,694

Imports.

Cotton piece-goods to the extent of 3,371,862 yards, valued at £114,409, showed an increase of £9,516 on the previous year.

Cotton yarn, however, showed a decrease to the value of £7,007. Owing to an excellent harvest of foodstuffs, there was a large reduction in the rice purchased from abroad, 17,669 cwt. less than in 1924. Whereas last year Germany supplied nearly three times as much of the rice as France, this year the position was almost exactly reversed.

The importation of sugar during 1925, 17,820 cwt., was the largest since pre-war days. France supplied 54 per cent. of it and Germany 40 per cent.

The United States supplied the bulk of tobacco (93 per cent.) and of non-edible oils.

The British share of the import trade was slightly better than in 1924, but considerably less than in 1923, the percentage returns for the last three years being :—

	British.	*French.*	*German.*
1923	69	13	7
1924	54·31	17	16
1925	54·44	27	8

Exports.

Of the total value of exports, ground-nuts accounted for 95 per cent. Palm kernels and hides were exported to the increased value of £1,683 and £339 respectively, as compared with 1924, but the value of ground-nuts was £168,928 less, the gross quantity exported having fallen from 60,622 tons to 48,700 tons in 1925.

The average ruling price throughout the year was :—Wharf towns, £9 19s. 2d. per ton, or 2s. 5½d. per bushel. Shipping ports, £10 15s. per ton, or 2s. 8¼d. per bushel. Liverpool prices, £17 5s. to £18 per ton, or 4s. 3¾d. to 4s. 6d. per bushel.

The main distribution of the exports of the last three years has been as follows :—

	British.	*French.*	*German.*
1923	49	39	7
1924	55	33	3
1925	46	35	5

(*b*) AGRICULTURE.

The Agricultural Department, which was revived in 1923, after an interval of eight years, has its headquarters at Cape St. Mary.

The work of enlarging and developing the botanical and decorative section there continued. Nurseries of lime, guava, sugar-cane, sweet potato, beans and bananas have been planted, and many manurial experiments have been made; while large numbers of ornamental and shade trees have been planted out in Bathurst town and its neighbourhood.

Ten plots treated with various fertilisers have yielded results which tend to show that the Philippine White variety of ground-nut is the best suited to the Gambia on account of its resistance to both *cercospcra personata* and rosette disease.

Compulsory screening has had a marked effect on the ground-nut crop, the adulteration of produce, which averaged eight per cent. in the 1923–24 season, having been reduced to less than

two per cent. in the present season. The result has been shown in the prices now being quoted for Gambia ground-nuts in the European markets, the difference in favour of the Rufisque nuts, formerly 30s. per ton, having been reduced to between 5s. and 2s. 6d. In spite, however, of the improvement in quality, which has been manifest both in the weight of the nuts and in their reduced free fatty acid content, the local growers have not only reaped no benefit, but, on the contrary, have suffered actual loss by having the sand, which otherwise would have considerably increased the weight, removed from their nuts.

The Strange Farmers who contributed materially to the harvest numbered 14,192, as against 14,188 in 1924. The majority of them were not from the Sudan as in former years, but from other parts of the Gambia.

In order to stimulate and improve the crop, on which the welfare of the Colony depends, twelve seed farms are being established in the Protectorate. They will be used as agricultural training centres and storage depots. Field trials of various economic crops will be conducted and practical demonstrations given in the use of up-to-date tools. Each of the farms will, it is anticipated, raise about ten tons of specially selected seed for distribution.

III.—Land and Climate.

(*a*) Land.

The survey work performed during the year included service with the Anglo-French Boundary Commission on the frontier between Senegal and the Protectorate. Theodolite traverses of 22 miles of survey lines were made, and astronomical observations for latitude and Azimuth were taken at various points. Fifty-nine deeds were prepared for issue of title, five being for freehold grants, fifty-one for leasehold and three wharf licences.

The whole of the town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease, and the assessment of rates on the property therein amounted to £3,737 for the year. The total area of lands (other than Colony lands) held under grants for trading purposes in the Protectorate has decreased owing to the termination or cancellation of grants on account of the centralising policy of the large firms.

Mr. W. G. G. Cooper, of the Gold Coast Geological Survey, spent some weeks in the Protectorate, but reported that no minerals of commercial value or importance were found.

(*b*) CLIMATE.

Meteorological returns for Cape St. Mary and Georgetown show :—

	Average max. shade	*Average min. shade.*	*Range mean.*	*Rainfall in inches.*
Cape St. Mary ...	87·1	64·8	16·5	53·56
Georgetown ...	101·5	63·8	31·3	49·11

Rain fell on 75 days in Bathurst, the total fall exceeding the mean for the last 40 years by nearly six inches.

As accurate records are an important factor in agricultural matters, it is intended to establish twelve new recording stations in the Protectorate.

IV.—Education.

During the year there were 1,569 children on the registers of the elementary schools of the Gambia, 210 of whom attended the Mohammedan school and 59 the schools at Georgetown. The attendance was better than during the previous year, although the numbers on the registers have gone down. This is mainly due to the fact that the rainfall was more moderate than in 1924, and there was not so much illness among the children.

Two medical inspections were held, but it is to be regretted that no dental treatment is available for the children, who in many cases have ceased practising native methods of cleansing their teeth without adopting European methods.

Physical training is now taught in all the schools, and the Mohammedan children have been supplied with gymnastic apparatus. It is hoped that the keenness which has manifested itself with regard to the football competitions will extend to school work, and that the schools will build up a tradition of esprit de corps. The great difficulty which militates against this, and against teaching efficiency, is the constant change in the teaching staff. A step forward has been taken by the combined efforts of the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Missions, who have started teachers' training classes. During the year the Government has sent a student of the Wesleyan High School to England for a college course in education.

Two boys at present hold scholarships from the Government and are in residence at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone. The teachers' examinations have again been disappointing, especially in hygiene. A great handicap is the absence of suitable text-books.

The children make good use of the school libraries, but the teaching of English is unsatisfactory and unlikely to improve until a higher standard is obtained from the instructors.

V.—Communications.

(*a*) Shipping.

The total of British, French, American, and German tonnage during the last four years has been :—

Year.	*British.*	*French.*	*American.*	*German.*	*Total.*
1922 ...	556,283	81,358	22,365	67,998	835,663
1923 ...	593,772	100,436	60,126	165,804	1,052,982
1924 ...	643,796	92,369	93,446	158,060	1,100,729
1925 ...	712,052	129,668	53,764	60,702	1,097,642

Of the total number of ships entered and cleared, 448 were ocean-going steamers (238 British) and 20 coasting.

Sailing vessels numbered 60. Practically half the ships calling here were British. German shipping yielded second place to French. Most of the ground-nut crop is carried to Europe in foreign bottoms.

(*b*) Marine Department.

The Government flotilla consists of the steamers " Prince of Wales " and " Vampire," which ran a regular river service throughout the year with a mileage of over 25,000 miles, and the Governor's yacht " Mansa Kila Ba." Two lighters and four launches are also owned by the Government, one of the latter being attached to the Medical Department in the Protectorate.

All extensive refits have to be carried out at Dakar, but the Marine workshop at Half Die has been of great use for ordinary overhauls. The steamer " Prince of Wales," in addition to carrying some 5,000 passengers and much freight up river, is employed on periodical inspections of the buoys at the entrance of the estuary and, in September last, when a ship ran aground off the Bijol Islands, proved her suitability for salvage work owing to her shallow draught and high horse-power on engines and auxiliaries.

(*c*) Posts.

A considerable decrease was recorded in the number of letters handled during the year, 202,457, as against 229,938 in 1924. Fewer parcels were received and despatched and far fewer money and postal orders were issued, especially during the second half of the year, after the cash-on-delivery system had been stopped. The people, apart from the European community, do not avail themselves much of postal facilities. Even in Bathurst difficulty is often experienced in delivering letters, the addressee suspecting the postman to be the bearer of a summons or a sanitary inspector searching for mosquito larvae.

(*d*) Telegraphs and Telephones.

The technical side of these branches was transferred to the Public Works Department on the 1st of July.

During the trade season the wireless communications with Basse and Georgetown are much used.

A new station at Kuntaur was opened in December. The telephone service has been developed in Bathurst and has operated successfully throughout the year.

VI.—The Protectorate.

Owing to the merchants' participation scheme for the purchase of the whole ground-nut crop, and the reduction of buying centres, there has been a marked diminution in the number of petty traders and stations and a consequent decrease in revenue of over £500.

The number of Strange Farmers remained about the same as last year, but many of them are Gambians who leave their homes to avoid corn-growing and to get more cash.

In the MacCarthy Island Province the superior attractions of Senegal have led to a considerable exodus of the people.

The low price paid for the crop resulted in many loads of nuts, not only in this Province, being sent over the frontier.

At Kuntaur labour was so difficult to obtain that its position as the chief loading-port in the Protectorate is seriously menaced.

By installing ferries with the mainland it is hoped to revive some of the former prosperity of Georgetown.

The Protectorate was profoundly peaceful if not prosperous during the year under review, and a good deal of road-making was done. A causeway and bridge over the Sofaniama Creek have improved communications in the South Bank.

In that Province a wandering band of twenty Futankoes from Futa Jallon, who had been wanted for some time for committing burglaries, were rounded up with the aid of the French authorities. Less success was experienced in attempts to round up the wild beasts which cause so much damage to herds. The African lion is greatly feared by the African farmer, who can ill spare the toll of cattle which the lion and the leopard exact. The herds are gradually increasing, but set-backs are reported in the North Bank with outbreaks of peri-pneumonia and in Kombo of rinderpest.

The rice and other food-stuff crops were distinctly good, but the depredations of such mischievous animals as baboons, wild pig and hippopotamus were much complained of in the less frequented parts of the Protectorate.

VII.—Vital Statistics and Sanitation.

(*a*) Statistics.

There is an estimated population of 210,530 in the Protectorate.

In Bathurst, where registration is compulsory and reliable, there is a population of 214 Europeans and 9,919 Africans and Syrians.

The death-rate for the town of Bathurst, 33·17 per thousand, was the lowest since 1919.

The infantile mortality rate was less than in any year since 1917. This is attributable to the phenomenal success of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic which was established at the beginning of the year under a European District Sister.

(*b*) Public Health.

1. Bathurst. Thanks to the vigilance of the authorities, who have continued the campaign against rats and have insisted on rat-guards on all ships calling at the port, there has been no epidemic during the year.

A new Moslem and a new pagan cemetery have been laid out and fenced in after much levelling and filling up. The ground so utilized will no longer afford breeding facilities for mosquitoes as heretofore.

2. In the Protectorate a terrible outbreak of relapsing fever occurred at Nokunda in the North Bank Province. It rapidly swept off half the population. The people firmly believe that the pestilence fell on them because certain lands which had never before been cultivated for fear of disturbing the devil there were tilled during 1924. An extraordinary point about the visitation was that with a death-roll of over 700, only two yards, the headman's in the very middle of the village, and a trader's, on the outskirts, remained immune. The village has now been moved to an entirely new site.

(*c*) Medical.

In-patients at the Colonial Hospital numbered 767, out-patients 15,895. The Hospital contains 51 beds, and in its precincts a special building is devoted to the work of the venereal clinic and for X-ray examination.

During the year, 48 European in-patients were treated.

The diseases most prevalent during the year were malaria, influenza and gastric troubles.

Reference has already been made to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, which is staffed by a European nurse and three African assistants.

The Clinic was not formally opened by His Excellency the Governor till June, but the success of it has been so embarrassing that the waiting list had to be sifted and finally curtailed, as attendance could not possibly be given to all applicants. With the nucleus of three trained African midwives now attached to the institution a thorough service will be organised within two years.

VIII.—Judicial.

(*a*) Criminal Statistics.

The Supreme Court disposed of 27 cases in 1925. The continuous session of the Court has done away with the delay, expense and dislocation of business which the assize system otherwise entails. There has been an almost entire absence of serious crime within the Colony during the past year.

The number of criminal cases has steadily decreased since 1922, and prosecutions of traders for failure to account for property entrusted to them under the Ordinance of 1855 have been fewer.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Bathurst 549 cases were dealt with, as against 737 in 1924. This reduction is ascribed to the more settled conditions assumed by trade with the passing away of the pernicious influence of post-war booms, with their easy profits, high prices and reckless speculation. The Native Tribunals, in which theft cases predominate, are held under the supervision of the Travelling Commissioners. The figures below appear to indicate that crime in the Protectorate remains at a steady level, and the number of cases in which the offenders were punished with imprisonment instead of fine tend to show that larceny is being more widely regarded as an offence against the community.

	1922.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*
Total of cases tried ...	818	842	816	832
Persons imprisoned ...	147	131	181	226

(*b*) Legislation.

Twenty Ordinances and ten Regulations were passed during the year, the most important of which had to do with Customs.

(*c*) Police.

During the year a large number of time-expired men left the Force and it became extremely difficult to obtain suitable recruits. A revised scale of pay has been sanctioned with a view to levelling up the rates here with those paid in Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast. This should result in a better type of man being enlisted and in more re-engagements.

The Police Band has given two programmes of music a week in the Square. The Band is available for public and private functions and adds much to the amenities of Bathurst. The enrolment of apprentices has been a disappointment. The boys, as soon as they begin to become useful, have shown a disinclination to remain and to persevere in becoming good bandsmen.

The Police have been assisted by the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance in keeping a stricter control over the importation and exportation of arms. The effect of the Immigration Restriction Ordinance and the Repatriation of Convicted Aliens Ordinance has been felt in freeing Bathurst from the presence of many undesirables who have made it their headquarters in the past.

(*d*) Prisons.

The number of admissions into Bathurst Gaol was 281, and the daily average of prisoners was 96. The health of the prisoners has been uniformly good and the native rice now used has completely eliminated beri-beri from the prison.

No change has been made in the Gaol accommodation except that the association wards have been fitted with wooden beds on concrete supports to enable the boards to be scrubbed more easily.

The Gaol at Georgetown is a well-constructed bush prison and is capable of housing 80 prisoners. A police detachment of one sergeant and ten constables carry out the duties of warders there.

IX.—Public Works.

Progress has been made in three of the four large schemes for the town of Bathurst.

The conversion of the old prison into a power-house has been completed. One of the 100 kilowatt engines supplied by Messrs. Ruston Hornsby and Company was set up by the end of the year, and the electric lighting of Bathurst is within measurable distance of completion.

As regards fire protection, the fire pumps ordered from Messrs. Merryweather, and the by-pass main required to link up the 150,000 gallon tank, are on their way out at the present time.

The dredger "Armitage" arrived in the Colony in August and is employed on filling in a ten-acre settlement basin at Half Die, which forms part of the Reclamation area.

Alone of the four schemes the Slipway has been held up. The superstructure for the rails has, however, arrived and the whole position now depends on the acceptance or rejection of the provisions for steel pile side jetties.

Handsome new offices for the Receiver-General's Department have been put up at the shore end of the Government Wharf. The material used was cement. The outlay of £5,889 worked out at 8·2 pence per cubic foot, which is the lowest cost so far attained in Bathurst for a building of that quality.

In pursuance of the new agricultural policy twelve seed-nut stores are being erected in the Protectorate, each one being designed to store at least 100 tons of nuts.

The total mileage covered by the cars and lorries of this Department, amounting to about 65,000 miles, has been run at a trifle over eightpence a mile. The Cubitt lorries have not been well suited for taking lengthy loads, and the purchase of six-wheel vehicles is now under consideration.

All labour, both skilled and unskilled, has been plentiful throughout the year, private employment having been scarce on account of bad trade. Whenever possible payment has been by piece-work rather than by day wages, and the decrease in labour charges as a result has been remarkable.

C. R. M. WORKMAN,
Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia,
4th July, 1926.

The following Appendices are printed :—

(1) Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the year 1925 for the Colony of the Gambia.

(2) List of principal firms trading in the Gambia.

(3) List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

PUBLICATIONS ON THE GAMBIA.

"The Gambia Colony," F. B. Archer (St. Bride's Press) 1905.

"The Gambia," H. Reeve (Smith, Elder) 1912.

Annual Trade Report of the Colony, 1924, obtainable from the Crown Agents.

Appendix I.

Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during the Year 1925 for the Gambia.

Report on Ground-Nuts from the Gambia.

The twelve samples of ground-nuts which are the subject of this report were forwarded for examination to the Imperial Institute by the Director of the Agricultural Department, and are referred to in his letter dated 19th January, 1926.

Description.

The following table gives a description of the samples :—

Sample.	*Weight.*	*Nuts.*	*Kernels.*
No. 1. Philippine, White.	lb. 7	In good clean condition : 1¼ to 1¾ inch in length (mostly 1½ inch) and ½ inch in diameter. Slight insect attack.	Of medium to large size ; plump. Skins cream-coloured. Average weight, 0·54 gram.
No. 2. Mauritius.	6¾	In good clean condition : 1 to 1¼ inch in length and ½ inch in diameter.	Of medium to large size : mostly plump. Skins light brown to pinkish-brown, mostly pinkish-brown. Average weight, 0·46 gram.
No. 3. Gambia, No. 1.	6¾	In good clean condition ; ¾ to 1 inch in length and ½ inch in diameter.	Of medium to large size ; plump. Skins light brown to pink, mostly pink. Average weight, 0·45 gram.
No. 4. Senegal.	7½	In good clean condition ; mostly ¾ inch in length and ⅜ to ½ inch in diameter.	Of small to medium size ; fairly plump. Skins light brown to pinkish-brown, mostly pinkish-brown. Average weight, 0·35 gram.
No. 5. Gambia, No. 2	6¾	In good clean condition ; ¾ to 1½ inch in length (mostly 1 to 1¼ inch) and ½ inch in diameter.	Of medium to large size ; plump, but about 8 per cent. shrivelled. Skins light brown to pink, mostly pink. Average weight, 0·46 gram.
No. 6. Zaria, No. 1.	7¾	In good clean condition ; mostly 1 to 1¼ inch in length and ½ inch in diameter.	Large and plump. Skins light brown to pink, mostly pink. Average weight, 0·55 gram.
No. 7. Philippine Pink, No. 1.	6½	In good clean condition ; ¾ to 1¼ inch in length (mostly 1 to 1¼ inch) and ½ inch in diameter.	Large and plump ; of even and attractive colour. Skins pale pinkish-brown. Average weight, 0·58 gram.

Sample.	*Weight.*	*Nuts.*	*Kernels.*
	lb.		
No. 8 Dixie Giant.	4¼	In good clean condition; 1¼ to 1¾ inch in length (mostly 1¼ to 1½ inch) and ⅝ inch in diameter.	Very large and plump. Skins brown to dark reddish-brown, mostly dark reddish-brown. Average weight, 0·64 gram.
No 9. Basse.	6¼	In good clean condition; 1 to 1½ inch in length (mostly 1 to 1¼ inch) and ½ inch in diameter.	Of medium to large size; plump. Skins light brown to pinkish-brown, mostly pinkish-brown. Average weight, 0·50 gram.
No. 10. McCarthy Island Province.	7¼	In good clean condition; ¾ to 1½ inch in length (mostly 1 inch) and ⅝ to ¾ inch in diameter. A small amount of vegetable debris. Many husks rather weathered.	Of small to large size; fairly plump and of even colour. Skins pinkish - brown. Average weight, 0·37 gram.
No. 11. Upper River Province.	6¾	In good clean condition; ¾ to 1½ inch in length (mostly 1 inch) and ½ inch in diameter. Small amount of vegetable debris.	Of small to large size; plump. Skins pinkish - brown. Average weight, 0·38 gram.
No. 12. South Bank Province.	6	In good clean condition; ¾ to 1½ inch in length (mostly 1 to 1¼ inch) and ½ inch in diameter. Small amount of vegetable debris.	Of small to medium size; plump. Skins pinkish - brown. Average weight, 0·36 gram.

The nuts of No. 1 (Philippine White) contained mostly two to three kernels while the nuts of the remaining samples contained mostly two kerneis.

Results of Examination.

The nuts were examined with the following results:—

[*See Table on page 16.*]

The yields of oil from the whole nuts ranged from 35·6 to 37·7 per cent. except in the case of No. 8 in which only 33·5 per cent. was present. This lower percentage of oil was due to the fact that these nuts (Dixie Giant) had a rather large proportion of husk (31 per cent.).

The yields of oil from the kernels varied between 48·3 and 50·6, and thus in all cases exceeded the usual commercial standard of 48 per cent.

The acidity of the oil extracted from the kernels was satisfactorily low, the percentage of free fatty acids ranging from 0·15 to 0·9.

27th April, 1926.

	*No.*1	*No.*2	*No.*3	*No.*4	*No.*5	*No.*6	*No.*7	*No.*8	*No.*9	*No.*10	*No.*11	*No.*12
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Husk in nuts	25	26	26	23	27	24	24	31	27	28	25	27
Kernels in nuts	75	74	74	77	73	76	76	69	73	72	75	73
Moisture in kernels ...	6·0	5·7	5·8	5·5	5·[illegible]	5·4	5·2	5·0	5·0	5·0	4·8	4·9
Oil in kernels, expressed on :—												
Entire nuts	36·9	37·4	36·8	37·7	35·6	37·1	36·7	33·5	35·9	35·7	37·0	36·6
Kernels, as extracted from the nuts... ...	49·2	50·6	49·7	49·0	48·8	48·8	48·3	48·6	49·2	49·6	49·3	50·1
Moisture-free kernels ...	52·4	53·7	52·8	51·9	51·5	51·6	50·9	51·2	51·8	52·2	51·8	52·7
Acid value of Oil	1·3	0·6	0·4	0·9	0·3	0·6	0·3	1·8	0·3	1·2	0·9	1·8
corresponding to :— Free fatty acids (expressed as oleic acid) per cent.	0·65	0·3	0·2	0·45	0·15	0·3	0·15	0·9	0·15	0·6	0·45	0·9

Appendix II.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade :—

Name.	*Address.*	*Address in Europe (if any).*
African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
Etablissements Barthes et Lesieur.	„ „	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Bathurst Trading Co. Ltd.	„ „	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	„ „	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	„ „	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Gambia Trading Co.	Buckle Street	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
Maurel Frères.	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
Louis Vezia & Co.	„ „	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Palmine, Ltd.	„ „	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
V. Q. Petersen	„ „	—— ——

All the above Firms are represented on the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

Appendix III.

List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and vice versa.

*S. J. Forster, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

*I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

*M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham) Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

†G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

S. Barlatt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Leman Street.

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GAMBIA.

Report for 1926.

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GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1926.

Preface.

The first descriptive account of the Gambia dates from the middle of the 15th century, when Alvise Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the river in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some 40 miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition, fitted out in 1481, was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for 10 years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals."

The power of Portugal was, however, on the wane, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I.—Government Finance.

The revenue and expenditure for the last four years have been :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loan.*	Surplus of Assets over Loan and Liabilities.
	£	£	£	£
1924	208,613	203,635	125,893	175,036
1925	189,086	271,836	113,743	104,436
1926	214,181	213,643	103,601	115,116

The excess of assets over liabilities at the close of the financial year (excluding liability on Loan Account) was £218,717, as compared with £218,179 the previous year.

Customs receipts, which represented 66 per cent. of the total real revenue of the Colony, brought in £141,003, as against £111,470 the year before. A comparison of the four chief items indicates an improvement in revenue due to the increased groundnut crop, on which the prosperity of the Gambia so largely depends.

Year.	Export Duty. Groundnuts.	Import Duty. Kolas.	Ad valorem Duties.	Tobacco.
	£	£	£	£
1923	60,622	37,301	36,516	15,308
1924	57,572	29,231	18,867	11,172
1925	46,124	23,016	16,821	10,748
1926	56,966	32,925	23,348	11,855

II.—Trade and Agriculture.

(*a*) Trade.

The following table shows the balance of trade exclusive of specie during the last three years :—

Year.	Aggregate.	Imports. c.i.f.	Exports. f.o.b.	Balance of Exports over Imports.
	£	£	£	£
1924	1,563,059	669,700	893,359	223,659
1925	1,338,548	615,927	722,621	106,694
1926	1,555,303	651,137	904,166	253,029

* In 1922 the Colony borrowed £187,000 from the West African Currency Board to cover the loss sustained in the process of the demonetization of the 5 franc piece. This loan is being repaid by annual instalments, with interest.

Imports.

Cotton piece-goods show an increase in value of £47,787 over the previous year. Over 90 per cent. of them came from England.

Other cotton manufactures and cotton yarn showed an increase in value of £13,571 and £8,597, respectively, over 1925. Less rice was imported than in the previous year, owing to the excellent local crops of koos and maize, the value of the rice imported being £72,270 as against £102,171 in 1925.

Practically all the kola nuts consumed in the Gambia come from Sierra Leone. £98,473 worth of nuts were brought in during 1926 as against £74,509 worth the year before.

A slightly increased quantity of sugar was used, but the declared value was less, being £18,504 as against £21,804 for 1925.

During the year no less than five times the amount of tea imported in 1925 was supplied. This tea is bought very largely by people from neighbouring territory because, being untaxed in this Colony, it is much cheaper than elsewhere.

The British share of the import trade was better than in 1925; the percentage returns of the principal importing countries being British 60, French 25, American 4, and Dutch 3.

Exports.

Of the total value of exports, groundnuts accounted for £862,578, compared with £693,097 in 1925. Palm kernels to the value of £11,293 and hides to the value of £2,795 were the only other exports.

The only export duty is that on groundnuts, which was first imposed in 1862 at 5s. a ton, was raised in 1874 to 6s. 8d., and in November, 1920, to its present rate of £1 per ton.

The main percentage distribution of exports during the last three years has been :—

Year.	*British.*	*French.*	*Dutch.*	*German.*
1924	55	33	4	3
1925	46	35	6	5
1926	40	26	16	14

(*b*) AGRICULTURE.

The total crop of groundnuts exported was 61,072 tons, of which 3,728 were exported from Saboya in French territory.

The number of strange farmers was 13,553,* as against 14,692 in the previous year.

* Figures subject to verification.

The amounts grown by the local farmers and by strangers vary from year to year, but it is significant that in 1921, with 22,048 strange farmers, the total was only 59,175 tons.

To assist the growers, the Government distributed 290 tons of seed nuts at a cost, including bags, of £5,122, the whole of which sum has been repaid during the present trade season. Compared with 1925, when 560 tons were issued on loan, it will be seen that much more seed was kept back locally for planting, and it is believed that more careful selection was exercised in the quantity reserved for this purpose.

The nuts varied in weight from 23½ lb. per cut bushel to 28½ lb., and from tests made it would appear that the variation was largely due to the uneven rainfall.

The average price was 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d. a bushel.

The Imperial Economic Committee on marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the Empire has drawn attention to the necessity of maintaining a high standard of purity, and progress in this direction has been the great aim of the Agricultural Department during the year.

Compulsory screening of nuts has entirely vindicated the farmers and proved that it is the traders who are responsible for adulterated produce.

The twelve seed depots have 10-acre lots fenced in round them, and field trials of groundnuts raised at headquarters have been carried out. Seven strains have been tested, of which the most promising variety is that known as Philippine White.

At Cape St. Mary Botanical Station the area devoted to ornamental and economic plants has been considerably developed during the year and lawns and grass-paths have been successfully established with Bahama grass.

Special attention has been given to the raising of fruit trees, as there is such a scarcity of fruit in the Colony; the plants being raised in kerosene tins until they develop a root system strong enough to withstand the severe conditions of the dry season.

Manurial experiments have tended to show that in dealing with Gambia soil artificial fertilizers alone will only maintain fertility for a limited period.

It has not as yet been possible to determine whether lack of humus or groundnut-soil sickness is the limiting factor.

Investigations with regard to insect and fungus pests have also been carried out. It was found that the ubiquitous white ant destroyed as much as 10 per cent. of the plants under experiment, and if a means of exterminating them could be found it would add thousands of tons to the annual crop of groundnuts.

A trial plot of sesame was raised, but its cultivation is not likely to replace that of groundnuts. Its monetary value per acre is less owing to its lower yield, but in well-drained black soil unsuited for groundnuts it could profitably be grown.

Efforts have been made during the year to revive the beeswax trade, which a hundred years ago was one of the main articles of export, 216 tons having been shipped in 1828, but the trade has now dwindled to nothing.

III.—Land and Climate.

(*a*) Land.

No complete survey of the Protectorate has ever been undertaken, nor would it be possible until the personnel of the Department is increased.

Sixty-four land leases and seven wharf licences in the Protectorate, and eight leases and two licences in Bathurst have been issued during the year.

The total assessment of rates for the town of Bathurst amounted to £3,800, and all available land has been taken up; the only spaces of any extent being MacCarthy Square and the Box Bar Race Course.

(*b*) Climate.

Rain fell on 62 days during the year and the fall was 34.93 inches at the chief recording station at Cape St. Mary, which was 18.63 inches less than in 1925. Considerable variations in rainfall are found at the river towns, the total for Georgetown being 31.47 inches, whilst that for Fattoto was 43.65.

The highest temperature in the shade was 113° F. in June at Georgetown, but October was the hottest month of the year, with a mean maximum temperature of 93° F. and a mean minimum of 75° F.

The mean relative humidity for the year was 65 per cent.

IV.—Education.

During the year there were 1,637 children on the registers of the elementary schools of the Gambia, 240 of whom attended the Mohammedan school. Annual examinations are held both for children and teachers, and 10 of the children are being taught at Government expense at the Wesleyan High School.

The total amount of Government grants exclusive of the amount of £300 allotted to the secondary schools was £1,196.

The school playgrounds are so small that it is impossible to organise games for the children, but MacCarthy Square is reserved for their use one day a week, and the annual sports in which all the schools join take place each year on Empire Day. The school that obtains the best results in the races wins for the year the flag presented by the schools of Bathurst, New South Wales.

In March the Roman Catholic school at Georgetown had to be closed down, but the building has been handed over to the Government for a Mohammedan school which is to be opened at the beginning of 1927.

V.—Communications.

(*a*) Shipping.

The total number of ships entered and cleared during the year was 552, as compared with 528 in 1925.

The following table shows the distribution of British and French and also the total tonnage for the last four years :—

Year.	*British.*	*French.*	*Total of all Nations.*
1923	593,772	100,486	1,052,982
1924	643,796	92,369	1,100,729
1925	712,052	129,668	1,097,642
1926	771,971	168,366	1,255,241

The percentage of shipping of various nationalities was : British 61, French 13, German 6, Italian 5, American 4.

The number of river craft licensed during 1926 was 395, but many of the sailing cutters are now being laid up and are being replaced by steel lighters towed by the small steamers belonging to the different firms.

(*b*) Marine Department.

During the year the Government maintained a regular river service, which is largely patronised by the public.

The Government launches are all equipped with Kelvin engines and have been in constant use by the Departments.

The dredger " Armitage " was transferred from the Public Works to the Marine Department in January and has been employed most of the year in reclamation at Half Die.

Operations were suspended for some weeks owing to the coal strike in England and afterwards the prohibitive price of coal.

The Marine workshop has repaired Government vessels, and an increasing amount of work is being undertaken for outside firms. The African staff are getting well trained and show signs of great promise in the future.

The observation light and the buoys at the entrance of the river have given no trouble, and a new light has been placed on Bijol Island for the benefit of ships approaching Bathurst from the south. It has a thousand candle-power working on dissolved acetylene, and is timed to give three flashes every 15 seconds, with a visibility of 14 miles. The structure consists of a 50-foot steel trestle tower.

The Gambia pilot service, manned by Africans who have a thorough knowledge of the river, is now controlled by the Marine Department. The men are appointed to vessels in rotation.

(*c*) Posts.

A considerable increase was recorded in the number of letters handled during the year, 263,957 as against 202,457 in 1925.

On the other hand, fewer parcels were received and despatched and comparatively little use is made of the money and postal order system in the Colony.

The air mail service via Dakar-Toulouse and Paris resumed operations in March and is becoming popular with the public.

181 private letter-boxes were rented by Bathurst residents.

The travelling post offices on the Government steamer enable people in the Protectorate to receive frequent mails.

The Post Office Savings Bank is moribund, the deposits having dropped to less than a thousand pounds. Those who are inclined to thrift prefer to place their money with the Bank of British West Africa.

(*d*) Telegraphs and Telephones.

The stations at Basse, Kuntaur, and Georgetown sent and received 4,267 messages, as against 2,913 last year.

Communication with Dakar is still by cable, though a wireless agreement is under consideration with the Senegal authorities.

Press news from the high-power station at Rugby is received daily. Wireless receiving sets are now licensed in the Colony.

At the close of the year, 96 direct, extension, or sub-exchange telephone connections were in use in Bathurst, and there is also a telephone to Cape St. Mary.

VI.—The Protectorate.

In the 1925-26 season the merchants again joined in a participation scheme to control the price of nuts, but the opening of the 1926-27 season saw the end of it and competition has been resumed.

In the North Bank Province the village seed stores provided an ample supply of seed for planting, and in the other Provinces the village seed stores were supplemented by a Government distribution of about 300 tons.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate, though of various races, are a most law-abiding and peaceful people, and they have a system which exactly suits their requirements.

Heads of families, however, whose authority in the past no one dared to question, are beginning to find that they can no longer rely on receiving the obedience to which they have been accustomed. Young men do not find it incumbent on them to remain with their families and work for the common benefit; they want money to spend on themselves, and many leave their homes to farm in other districts or in French territory.

Amongst the so-called strange farmers only about one half are Senegalese; the others come from different parts of the Gambia.

More time has to be given to the roads owing to the increase of motor traffic.

This is especially the case in Kompo, which now has a good track from the west to the east of the Province. It was formerly impassable on account of the creeks which intersect the country, but a way has now been made round the head of the creeks, so that produce can be brought by land from the trading centres in Foni to Bathurst.

Cattle and donkeys are on the increase, but it will be many years before the country carries the head of cattle it had before the attack of contagious peri-pneumonia in 1917. Outbreaks of disease have occurred in the Niamina, Baddibu, and Saloum districts, causing serious damage, apart from the actual loss in animals, to the areas involved, because of the shortage of manure for the crops.

More Senegal sheep have come over the border than for years past. The rising franc and the ensuing change in the value of stock has brought this about, as well as the failure of pasturage in the surrounding territory on account of the light rainfall.

Manufactured articles have to a great extent ousted the old African crafts, but a revival of weaving among the Fulas and Tukulors is reported, and utensils of local make are still in some demand. It is rare now to come across a silversmith or goldsmith, as the alloy coinage and paper of the West African Currency Board is the only money in circulation.

Noxious beasts take their toll of the crops, monkeys and wild pigs being the most tiresome, whilst the hippopotamus frequents the rice farms along the river banks.

Lions are not often heard near the towns, but a male lion, shot in October at Gunjur, was said to have killed over 50 cattle.

VII.—Statistics and Sanitation.

(*a*) Statistics.

There is an estimated population of 220,000 in the Protectorate and 10,100 in Bathurst.

During the trade season the size of small places such as Kuntaur and Basse is greatly increased by people from across the frontier, but of recent years the markets at Kau-ur, Jowara, and other centres have permanently attracted many from the bush.

No reliable vital statistics are available from the Protectorate except Georgetown, where 19 births and 73 deaths were registered.

In Bathurst the birth-rate was 27.82 and the death-rate 33.16 per thousand. The infant mortality rate for the year was 356, whilst that of clinic infants was 34.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic has proved of great value.

(*b*) Public Health.

A very special watch was kept on all ships and river craft towards the end of the year owing to the wide prevalence of yellow fever in Senegal, but no case was encountered in the Gambia.

Though centres of plague infection were reported from the Azores to Lagos, the Colony and Protectorate were immune from this disease during the year, as well as from smallpox.

The water supply of Bathurst is delivered from a fenced area 15 miles away. It suffices for the present requirements of the town, which demands a normal supply of some 200,000 gallons a day.

As regards the general health of the town, which has been good during the year, a step forward will have been taken when it becomes possible to place on reclaimed ground that section of the population who have to live at present in the depressed areas which are subject to periodic flooding during the rains.

Georgetown, which has shown signs of revival since the opening of the ferries connecting it with the South Bank Province, is the cleanest town on the river.

There, as well as at Kuntaur, Basse, and Kau-ur, sanitary gangs are employed and incinerators for destroying refuse are used.

(*c*) Medical.

The total number of cases treated in the Victoria Hospital, Bathurst, was 787. Out-patients numbered 9,219.

174 in-patients and 3,406 out-patients were treated at Georgetown.

Two new dispensaries at Basse and Kau-ur have proved of great benefit to the people, and it is hoped to add a third at Kuntaur next year.

Relapsing fever again broke out on several occasions in the South Bank Province, a part of the Protectorate where the people are poor and their resistance to disease very low.

A vaccinator is now permanently employed on the staff, and his services have been in great request.

VIII.—Judicial.

(*a*) Civil.

The Supreme Court disposed of five cases in 1926.

In the Court of Requests in Bathurst 1,061 small disputes were dealt with, and in the Protectorate 369 by the Native Tribunals.

The small number of civil actions is ascribed partly to the comparative poverty of the people and partly to the absence of the *animus litigandi* which is to be found in so pronounced a form elsewhere on the Coast.

(*b*) CRIMINAL.

Not only has there been an almost entire absence of serious crime within the Colony during the past year but all the criminal courts report a diminished number of small offences, and only nine persons were punished in the Supreme Court between January and December.

It is especially noteworthy that only one trader was prosecuted for fraudulent practices under the Ordinance of 1855.

In the Police Magistrate's Court in Bathurst the number of charges of a criminal or quasi-criminal nature has shown a downward curve since 1924, the figures being :—

1924.	*1925.*	*1926.*
737	549	489

The statistics of the Protectorate Courts show that 166 persons were imprisoned during the year, as against 226 in 1925.

The Judge of the Supreme Court, who reviews all sentences passed in the Protectorate, has recorded his high appreciation of the way in which all Native Tribunals, whether presided over by the Travelling Commissioner or by the Head Chief, have discharged their judicial duties.

(*c*) LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances and sixteen Regulations were passed during the year, the most important of which dealt with the electric light.

Motor traffic regulations have been amended owing to the increase in the number of cars and lorries.

During the year the Ordinances of the Gambia were revised and arranged under titles and chapters.

The new edition came into force by Proclamation dated 15th November.

(*d*) POLICE.

The better rate of pay has resulted in the re-engagement of all those who were time-expired during the year, though the Force was short of its authorised strength at the close of 1926.

The Police not only carry out the ordinary duties of constables but they also furnish armed guards, man the fire brigade, and act as warders at the Gaol. There are three Police posts in the Protectorate.

The Police band is a great asset and its public performances are much appreciated by the community.

The number of calls to fires during 1926 was six. None was of a serious nature. The new water-supply system makes a greatly increased pressure and volume of water available for fire purposes.

There are twenty-two premises in Bathurst licensed to sell liquor. They are well conducted and in the majority of cases close, except on holidays and special occasions, before the legal hour, for want of customers.

(*e*) Prisons.

The number of admissions into the Gaol was 146, as compared with 281 in 1925, and the daily average of prisoners was 65, as against 96 the previous year. This marked reduction was attributed by the Prison authorities to the salutary operation of the Immigration Restriction Ordinance, 1924, and the Repatriation of Convicted Aliens Ordinance of 1924.

It was also due to the demand for labour elsewhere. The large floating population which usually drifts over the frontiers was absent. Great difficulty indeed was experienced during the trading season in loading ships.

It is from this class of casual labour that the Gaol is mainly recruited.

IX.—Public Works.

Of the four large Bathurst schemes referred to in the 1925 Report, on which over £60,000 have been spent, three are now in working order.

The new electric light and power station was opened on 24th May. It generates three-phase alternating current at 450 volts, 50 cycles per second periodicity. The total installed power is 250 kilowatts, and the main streets and buildings of Bathurst are now lit up.

During the time it has been working no trouble has been experienced either in the power-house or in the distribution system.

The total cost per unit generated for this first seven months' operation of the plant was 6.29 pence.

There is at present practically no day load on the station and the plant is therefore not run during daylight hours.

It is hoped that as the advantages of electric power become apparent the local firms will convert their various small plants, which, with the projected ice-making plant and the conversion to electrical drive of Government machinery, will provide a nucleus around which an adequate day load will be formed.

The new project for the protection of Bathurst against fire was completed and a 150,000 gallon reservoir tank has been built in the power-station yard. The booster pumps have been erected close by, and it is satisfactory to record that the mains have stood a pressure of 100 pounds to the square inch with ease.

Dredging has been carried out for the greater part of the year for the purpose of raising an area of 10 acres of tidal swamp at Half Die to a minimum elevation of seven feet above low-water level.

The output has been greatly below the designed duty on account of the stiffness of the material of the sea bottom.

This necessitates continual traversing of the induction pipe and constant shifting of the dredger itself with its attendant pipe-line of nearly half a mile in length.

As regards the slipway, tenders have been accepted and a resident engineer appointed. It has been decided to proceed without steel pile side jetties, and it is anticipated that the undertaking will be completed early in 1928.

Twelve seed-nut depots standing in fenced enclosures of 10 acres each have been erected at various sites in the Protectorate at a total cost of £6,667.

The depots are designed to hold 100 tons of seed each.

A plaque was erected on a pillar at the Abuko water works to commemorate the inauguration of the pipe-line to Bathurst during the Governorship of Sir Henry Galway.

Labour, both skilled and unskilled, was plentiful throughout the dry season and piece-work has been employed wherever possible.

X.—General.

In January a conference of the delegates of the West African National Congress was held in Bathurst.

In April a deputation of medical officers appointed by the League of Nations made a short stay.

The chief event of the year was the visit in April of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Ormsby Gore, and his staff. He inspected the various public institutions in Bathurst, received deputations, and went to James Island and the Kombo. The report of his tour, which was published as a Parliamentary Paper* in September, contains a valuable summary of the resources of the Gambia, and stresses its geographical situation as the most westerly portion of the continent and therefore the closest to the trade routes to South Africa and to South America.

Amongst the King's Birthday Honours a knighthood of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was conferred upon the Governor, after 33 years' service in West Africa, and Membership of the Order on the Reverend Mother Joseph and the Reverend Father Meehan. The Reverend Mother Joseph belongs to the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny and has resided in Bathurst since 1890.

The Rev. Father Meehan of the Holy Ghost Fathers has been priest in charge since 1905. The presentations were made on Armistice Day and on that day for the first time a street collection on behalf of Earl Haig's British Legion Fund was organised, the total amount of £271 being obtained.

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* Cmd. 2744.

From the first of December the business of Barclays Bank was transferred to the Bank of British West Africa.

During the year the port was visited by His Majesty's ships "Lowestoft," "Daffodil," and "Delphinium," and the cable steamer "Amber" also called.

C. R. M. WORKMAN,
Colonial Secretary.

9th June, 1927

APPENDIX I.

Work Conducted at the Imperial Institute during the Year 1926 for the Gambia.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS.

During 1926 the following investigations were carried out for the Government of the Gambia :—

Groundnuts.—A number of different varieties of groundnuts are being cultivated experimentally in the Gambia, and during the year the Director of Agriculture forwarded 12 samples of nuts which had been produced in the trials. The varieties represented were—Philippine White, Philippine Pink No. 1, Gambia No. 1 and No. 2, Mauritius, Senegal, Zaria No. 1, Dixie Giant, and Basse, together with samples from the McCarthy Island, the Upper River and the South Bank Provinces.

The yields of oil from the whole nuts ranged from 35.6 to 37.7 per cent., except in one sample (Dixie Giant) in which a rather large proportion of husk was present. The kernels furnished from 48.3 to 50.6 per cent. of oil, the yield thus exceeding in all cases the usual commercial standard of 48 per cent. The acidity of the oil was satisfactorily low throughout.

Two samples of groundnuts taken from commercial consignments in the Gambia as they were being loaded for despatch to Europe were subsequently forwarded in connection with an investigation by the Department of Agriculture to determine the extent to which the acidity of the oil increases during transit. The samples gave a satisfactory yield of oil (48.6 and 49.3 per cent. from the kernels), but in both cases the oil was found to contain a rather large amount of free fatty acids (about 3 per cent.).

APPENDIX II.

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The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade :—

Name.	*Address.*	*Address in Europe (if any).*
African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd.	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool.
Etablissements Barthes et Lesieur.	" "	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Bathurst Trading Co., Ltd.	" "	34, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.
Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	" "	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	" "	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Gambia Trading Co. ...	Buckle Street ...	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
Maurel Frères	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
Louis Vezia & Co.	" "	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Palmine, Ltd.	" "	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.
V. Q. Petersen	" "	—

All the above firms are represented on the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX III.

List of Barristers, Solicitors, and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as solicitors and *vice versa*.

* S. J. Forster, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

* I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

* M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

†G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

S. Barlatt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Leman Street.

W. D. Carrol, B.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Picton Street.

G. S. W. Ladepon Thomas, Barrister-at-Law, Kent Street.

S. A. Benka-Coker, Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. † Trade Mark Agent.

(385) Wt. 11682-701 1000 9/27 H. St. G. 7.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1399.

GAMBIA.

Report for 1927.

For Report for 1925 see No. 1306 (Price 9d.) and for Report for 1926 see No. 1347 (Price 6d.).

Printed in the Gambia.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller

1928

Price 6d. Net.

58-1399

EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926 to May, 1927. Cmd. 2898. 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 9*d*.).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 3.) 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9*d*. (10*d*.).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

Empire Marketing Board May, 1927 to May, 1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series of publications on the problems connected with the marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the British Empire. The following six volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Meat, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Fruit, 4*s*. 6d. (4*s*. 10*d*.); Dairy Produce, 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.); Fish, 6*d*. (8*d*.); Poultry, Eggs, Honey, 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6*d*. (7*d*.). The relationship between the Committee and the Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

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(2829—21) Wt. 11507—871 875 9/28 H. St. G. 7/ 8

THE GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 1927.

History and Geography.

The first descriptive account of the Gambia dates from the middle of the 15th century, when Alvise Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the river in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some 40 miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition, fitted out in 1481, was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for 10 years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals".

The power of Portugal was, however, on the wane, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company it was unable to make a profit, and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for 250 miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labé on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean going steamers as far as Kuntaur, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina, the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet. This year when the floods were exceptionally heavy the buildings at Basse, the largest market in the Protectorate in the dry season, were twelve feet under water.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jollofs, Mandingos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mahommedans, except the last named tribe who are pagan and lower in the scale of civilisation than the others.

The currency is British West African silver and alloy coinage and paper. Since the French five franc pieces were demonetised, little silver has been seen in the Protectorate. There was in circulation during the year about half a million pounds worth of alloy coinage, and notes to the value of £166,000. The monetary units and the standards of weights and measures are British, but the people are equally conversant with the metric system owing to their close contact with the neighbouring Colonies.

I.—General.

On the 4th of February Captain Sir C. H. Armitage, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., left the Colony on retirement after six years as Governor of this Colony and after thirty-four years service in West Africa. His successor, Sir John Middleton, K.B.E., C.M.G., late Governor of the Falkland Islands, assumed the administration of the Colony on the 10th of March.

The three unofficial members of Legislative Council have been re-appointed by the Crown for a further period of five years. The Senior unofficial member, the Honourable S. J. Forster, has represented Bathurst like his father before him for over twenty years. He was made an M.B.E. on the King's Birthday.

After nearly forty years' residence in this Colony the Reverend Mother Joseph of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny died in June. The deceased lady, who was highly respected, held the Membership of the Order of the British Empire. Her funeral was the occasion for a remarkable manifestation of public sympathy on the part of the whole community, Mahommedan as well as Christian.

II.—Finance.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years has been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Loan.*	*Surplus of Assets over Loan and Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£
1923	407,581	211,317	147,893	148,058
1924	208,613	203,635	125,893	175,036
1925	189,086	271,836	113,743	104,436
1926	214,181	213,643	103,601	115,116
1927	252,419	277,625	84,171	109,340

The revenue in 1923 included £177,893, part of a loan from the West African Currency Board to cover the loss on demonetisation.

The expenditure in 1925 included £32,546 for the writing off of the rice and seed nut debts of the Protectorate.

The expenditure in 1927 included the sum of £50,000 which was set aside for the establishment of a Reserve Fund.

The liability to the West African Currency Board incurred in 1922 was reduced during the year by £19,430.

Customs receipts, which represented 68 per cent of the total revenue of the Colony, brought in £172,887 as against £141,003 the year before.

A comparison of the four chief items of duty during the last five years indicates an improvement in revenue with an increased ground nut crop.

Year.	*Export Duty. Groundnuts.*	*Import Duty. Kolas.*	*Ad valorem Duties.*	*Tobacco.*
	£	£	£	£
1923	60,622	37,301	36,516	15,308
1924	57,572	29,231	18,867	11,172
1925	46,124	23,016	16,821	10,748
1926	56,966	32,925	23,348	11,855
1927	64,342	44,795	26,797	17,347

The cost price of investments held at the close of 1927 was £247,246. The securities depreciation fund of £13,237 covers more than twice over the present depreciation of the surplus funds investments.

III.—Production.

The total value of exports was £999,000. Except for palm kernels, 719 tons valued at £11,611, and hides, 28,316 valued at £9,288, the sole export of the Gambia is ground nuts, on which an export duty of £1 a ton, raised from 5/- in 1862 to 6/8 in 1874 and to its present rate in 1920, is levied.

The tonnage and value of the crop for the last five years has been as follows :—

Year.	*Quantity in Tons.*	*Value.*
		£
1923	64,178	864,885
1924	60,622	861,925
1925	48,700	693,097
1926	61,072	862,578
1927	69,240	967,941

The main percentage distribution of the ground nut export trade during these years has been:—

Year.	*British.*	*French.*	*German.*	*Dutch.*
1923	47	39	7	—
1924	55	33	3	4
1925	46	35	5	6
1926	40	26	14	16
1927	9	42	20	21

An increased crop of ground nuts was set off by a poor harvest of corn and other food stuffs, but the year was one of greater prosperity to the farmers, who repaid promptly the 700 tons of seed nuts and 920 tons of rice which were issued to them during the rains.

There are no accurate statistics of the amount of food stuffs grown in the Protectorate and consumed there. The rice and other crops suffer much damage from the depredations of wild beasts in spite of the issue of gun powder for shot guns on a considerable scale. There are still large areas of uncleared land in which such beasts take refuge.

Cattle disease was again rife in many districts and between fifteen and twenty thousand head were lost.

In the absence of expert opinion it is believed that pleuro-pneumonia, as in 1917 when the herds were decimated, was the cause. Whatever it may be the flesh of many animals dying of the sickness is eaten by the people without any ill effects.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

The following table shows the balance of trade (exclusive of specie) during the last five years :—

Year.	*Aggregate.*	*Imports. (c.i.f.)*	*Exports. (f.o.b.)*	*Balance of Exports over Imports in £.*
	£	£	£	£
1923	1,736,967	790,013	946,954	156,941
1924	1,563,059	669,700	893,359	223,659
1925	1,338,548	615,927	722,621	106,694
1926	1,555,303	651,137	904,166	253,029
1927	1,862,376	863,376	999,000	135,624

The largest increases of imports were in rice and sugar,

—	*1926 Tons.*	*Value.*	*1927 Tons*	*Value.*	*Increase.*
		£		£	£
Rice	4,612	72,270	7,939	124,457	52,187
Sugar	925	18,504	1,310	33,961	15,457

whilst kola nuts showed a slight decrease in value.

—	*1926 Cwt.*	*Value.*	*1927 Cwt.*	*Value.*	*Decrease.*
		£		£	£
Kolas	17,459	98,473	24,002	97,967	506

Great Britain supplied most of the following goods :—

Apparel bags, coal, cottons, metals, motor cars, oils edible and spirits potable.

From France were obtained most of the biscuits, boots, hats, rice, sugar, soap and wines, and from the United States flour, oils not edible and tobacco.

The percentage of imports for the last five years has been :—

—	*1923*	*1924*	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*
British Empire	69	54	55	60	52
France	13	17	27	25	31
Germany ...	7	16	8	3	6
United States	5	5	5	4	6

The progress of trade in 1927 may be briefly summarised as follows. Great Britain sold to the Colony merchandise to the value of £334,000 and took produce to the value of only £81,000, in which the principal item is 4,400 tons of ground nuts, and for this small quantity of the Colony's staple product a not less favourable market could readily be found elsewhere.

France sold merchandise to the value of £264,000 and purchased produce to the value of £420,000. Germany and Holland sold merchandise to the value of £48,000 and £11,000 respectively, and each purchased produce to the value of approximately £200,000.

V.—Communications.

569 ships of 1,287,018 tons entered and cleared in 1927, as compared with 552 ships of 1,255,241 tons in 1926. 63 per cent were British, 11 per cent French, the remainder being of German, Norwegian, American, and Italian nationality. These figures however do not represent the share which British shipping takes in the carrying trade of the Colony. It is estimated that British ships do not bring more than two-fifths of the total imports, while practically all the produce of the Gambia is exported in foreign vessels and nine-tenths of it to foreign ports.

H. M. S. "Delphinium" visited Bathurst on three occasions during the year and in January the American yacht "Utowana", owned by Mr. Alison Armour of Chicago took a party of botanists up the river.

Navigation has been assisted by the opening of the light on Bijol Island.

Many small craft ply on the river and the Government has maintained a regular service of steamers which have carried over 15,000 passengers and a large quantity of freight during the year.

Since January a ferry service between Bathurst and Barra has been run as a private enterprise. Roads also have been improved in the Protectorate, and transport by lorry is now superseding donkey loads nearly everywhere, with the result that the duration of the actual buying season is much reduced and though it extends nominally from December to May most of the crop is sold by the end of February.

A slight increase was recorded in the number of letters handled during the year, 270,420 as against 263,957 in 1926. £12,000 more in money orders and £1,000 more of postal orders were issued, and the travelling post offices on the Government steamers are gradually doing more business.

Owing to the restricted facilities of communication the air mail service from Dakar to Europe was not so frequently available as in 1926.

The wireless stations up river at Basse, Kuntaur and Georgetown sent and received 6,541 messages as against 4,267 last year.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons.

In the Supreme Court there were only 17 criminal cases, the lowest number for the last five years, but on the civil side 30 cases were decided as against 5 in 1926.

Since 1922 there has been a steady decline in the number of cases in the Police Magistrate's Court at Bathurst. A sharp rise in larceny cases from 54 in 1926 to 94 in 1927 has occurred, however, which was chiefly due to the large influx of foreign casual labour.

In the Protectorate the Native Tribunals have disposed of more cases than in previous years and their efficiency has been increased. The cautious member who is afraid of unpopularity should he be heard to concur in the infliction of a severe sentence, and the old silent member who only opens his mouth to express agreement with the opinion of the president have given way to more useful men.

The main body of Police are stationed in Bathurst. There are three small posts at Georgetown, Basse and Fattoto. Warder duty is carried out by the Police at the Bathurst and Georgetown Gaols. They also act as firemen. Four fires broke out in Bathurst during the year. They were all quickly got under, as the water supply and pressure has been improved. An excellent Band is maintained by the Force, but it is difficult to induce suitable boys to join locally.

In the annual musketry course the figure of merit was 60 out of a possible 96.

The number of cases reported to the Police was below the average of the last five years, those for larceny representing nearly half the total dealt with.

The original Gaol at Bathurst stood in the square, and was converted into the electric power station two years ago. The present Gaol is situated along the Cape road and was built in the first instance as a Sanitary Isolation Station. The total number of prisoners admitted in 1927 was 354 and the daily average was 82, most of them short sentence men.

VII.—Public Works.

The slipway is now under construction. It will, when completed, take ships up to 400 tons and will be available for the public as well as for Government craft. Electric haulage will be supplied from the Power Station. The installed power there consists of two 100 kilowatt sets and one 50 kilowatt set. The maximum observed peak load on the station is 108 kilowatts. A smaller plant is to be erected in order to give a continuous 24 hour service, as the absence of any appreciable day load has necessitated the addition of a smaller generating unit. All the principal establishments in Bathurst are now consumers of current for lighting purposes, and the demand from private persons in the town is growing gradually.

The scheme provided for the raising of pressure in the town mains for fire fighting purposes is operating successfully over the whole area supplied with pipe-borne water, and fire pressures can be raised four minutes after the receipt of an alarm.

The reclamation of swamp land at the back of the town has been carried on during the year. Progress has been much slower than was anticipated and the question as to whether dry filling should be substituted for dredging is under consideration.

VIII.—Public Health.

In spite of abnormal rains, 77 inches having been registered at Cape St. Mary, which is nearly double the average of the last 40 years, the year passed without any serious visitations.

A new factor in the situation is that persons leaving infected areas in Senegal arrive in Bathurst within the ordinary incubation period owing to motor transport. Great vigilance therefore has to be exercised, and a heavy responsibility is thrown on the medical authorities whose labours would be materially lessened if it were possible to obtain a better trained staff of subordinates. Except for an attack of relapsing fever in the South Bank Province which caused over 200 deaths the health conditions in the Protectorate were good. Some thousands of out-patients attended the dispensaries at Kaur and Basse. Besides the work done on the spot by the dispenser a considerable number of cases, which otherwise would never have gone there, requiring hospital treatment have been sent to Georgetown. People are beginning to realise the benefit of hospital treatment at Georgetown, where 192 patients were received, apart from 3,152 out-patients during the year.

Bathurst with a population of 10,283 has a birth rate of 27·03 and a death rate of 34·71 per thousand. Thanks to the efforts of the Women and Children Welfare Clinic infant mortality has been reduced to 88 as against a rate of 317 per thousand for the rest of the community. Baby Day was a great success and has become an annual institution. The capacity of the Colonial Hospital in Bathurst has been heavily taxed with 788 in-patients and 13,799 out-patients.

IX.—Education.

Before the standard of education in the Colony can be considered at all satisfactory it is necessary to raise the quality and status of the teachers and to secure the regular attendance of the pupils. Too many parents remove their children at an early age, and not more than 60 per cent of those in the elementary schools go higher than the fourth standard.

The number passing from elementary to secondary schools is small and during the year only 31 boys and 72 girls were on the registers of the latter. In Bathurst 1,531 children went to the affiliated schools and 264 to the Mahommedan school.

There is no system of kindergarten training, but physical drill has been introduced and has given a new interest to school life.

Two boys are being educated at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, having won scholarships from the Gambia, and two boys succeeded in passing the Cambridge School Certificate examination.

Apart from Mahommedan bush schools the only education available in the Protectorate is at Georgetown. The Wesleyan Mission has

maintained a day school there for over a century and has 72 pupils on its books at the present time. On New Year's day the Armitage School for Mahommedans was opened at Georgetown, the buildings of the former Catholic School now closed down having been taken over by the Government and enlarged. Thirty-six boarders and forty-seven day boys are now on the books and it is expected that the numbers will soon increase. In addition to the Koran, a curriculum of practical use to the children, who are nearly all sons of farmers, has been drawn up, which includes elementary instruction in agriculture.

X.—Lands and Survey.

A new rating list was compiled for the town of Bathurst as no general re-assessment had been made since 1922 when prices and values were at their height. Up to ten shillings a yard for freehold land near the main street is paid, but few freeholds now change hands in Bathurst, and until more land is reclaimed overcrowding is inevitable. Every available yard of land which is not freehold has been leased by the Government.

In the Protectorate there are no freeholds, but small lots for trading stations are leased for £3 a year and upwards.

There are 3 main types of land surface, consisting of undulating sand hills 41 per cent, plateau 27 per cent and river flats 24 per cent, water making up the remaining 8 per cent of the 4,000 square miles of the Gambia.

Ironstone ridges are a notable feature of the upper reaches of the river: there is but little soil on them. Where they give way to the light soil plains, the ground is excellent for ground nuts, koos, cassava and other food stuffs. A small secondary forest covers most of the area when not cleared for farms. The flats, as one proceeds up river, form good rice fields, but those near the mouth are useless for cultivation because of the extensive mangrove swamps.

The space available for production in the Protectorate is limited to about one half of the total area, but until an accurate survey is made no reliable statistics can be given.

XI.—Labour.

In Bathurst there was no shortage of labour either skilled or unskilled, and the Government, which employs about 300 men, was able to carry out its programme without difficulty. The usual rate is 1/6 a day for a 47 hours week. The tendency for youths of the artisan class to seek clerical rather than manual work is as marked here as elsewhere.

In the Protectorate the land is cultivated not only by the owners but by a floating population of strange farmers who come from neighbouring Colonies, just as the Irish harvesters used to come to England, and return to their homes after the crop has been gathered. Their numbers vary according to local prospects and inducements. Since 1922 less than 20,000 have crossed the frontiers annually, but this year 17,237 were counted as compared with 13,553 last year.

XII.—Miscellaneous.

Ten Ordinances and eight Regulations were passed during the year; none of them were of outstanding importance.

For the first time in the annals of the Gambia an inter-colonial cricket match was played at Freetown between representatives of this Colony and Sierra Leone. The result was a win for the Gambia by nine wickets.

C. R. M. WORKMAN.

31st May, 1928. *Colonial Secretary.*

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The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade :—

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Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	„	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	„	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Gambia Trading Co. ...	Buckle Street	23, Water Street, Liverpool.
Maurel Frères.	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
Louis Vézia & Co.	„	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
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V. Q. Petersen.	„	—

* All the above firms are represented on the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

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List of Barristers, Solicitors, and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as solicitors and *vice versa*.

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* I. J. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

* M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

† G. K. Roberts, 6, Buckle Street.

S. Barlatt, M. A., B. C. L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Leman Street.

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THE GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1928.

History and Geography.

The first descriptive account of the Gambia dates from the middle of the 15th century, when Alvise Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the River in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some forty miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century: an English expedition, fitted out in 1481, was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals".

The annexation of Portugal to Spain under Philip II in 1580 caused the decline of Portuguese maritime enterprise, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was, however, ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for 250 miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntaur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet. This year when the floods were again exceptionally heavy the buildings at Basse, the largest market in the Protectorate in the dry season, were several feet under water.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jollofs, Mandingos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mahommedans except the last named tribe who are pagan though the Mahommedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and as a result they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

The currency is British West African silver and alloy coinage and paper. Since the French five-franc pieces were demonetised, little silver has been seen in the Protectorate. There was in circulation during the year about £360,000 worth of alloy coinage, and notes to the value of £191,000. The monetary units and the standards of weights and measures are British, but the people are equally conversant with the metric system owing to their close contact with the neighbouring Colonies.

I.—General.

On the 10th of January, the death of Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., occurred. He was Governor of the Gambia from 1900 to 1911. The valuable work he did for the advancement of the Colony and Protectorate is gratefully remembered.

In April, the Governor proceeded to Dakar to present the Insignia of an Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on behalf of His Majesty to the Governor General of French West Africa. The occasion was marked by great cordiality and the most splendid hospitality.

Shortly after, Sir John Middleton, K.B.E., C.M.G., left the Colony having been appointed Governor of the Dominion of Newfoundland. He was succeeded by Sir Edward Denham, K.B.E., C.M.G., who assumed the administration and arrived with Lady Denham on the 29th of November.

Dr. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., Senior Travelling Commissioner North Bank Province, was appointed under Additional Instructions respecting the Constitution of Legislative Council a member of that body, and also of Executive Council.

I' —Finance.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years has been :—

Year	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Loan.*	*Surplus of Assets over Loan and Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£
1924	208,613	203,635	125,893	175,036
1925	189,086	271,836	113,743	104,436
1926	214,181	213,643	103,601	115,116
1927	252,419	277,625	84,171	109,340
1928	255,385	250,596	62,541	135,759

The expenditure in 1925 included £32,546 for the writing off of the rice and seed nut debts of the Protectorate.

The expenditure in 1927 included the sum of £50,000 which was set aside for the establishment of a Reserve Fund.

The liability to the West African Currency Board incurred in 1922 for demonetization of the five-franc piece was reduced during the year by £21,630.

Customs receipts, which represented 69 per cent of the total revenue of the Colony, brought in £177,368 as against £172,887 the year before.

A comparison of the four chief items of duty during the last five years shows increase in revenue from Groundnuts and *ad valorem* duty, but a decrease during 1928 on Kolas and Tobacco.

Year.	*Export Duty. Groundnuts.*	*Import Duty. Kolas.*	*Ad valorem Duties.*	*Tobacco.*
	£	£	£	£
1924	57,572	29,231	18,867	11,172
1925	46,124	23,016	16,821	10,748
1926	56,966	32,925	23,348	11,855
1927	64,342	44,795	26,797	17,347
1928	73,809	31,210	33,705	12,846

The cost price of investments held at the close of 1928 was £253,912. The Securities Depreciation Fund stood at £13,903 while the actual depreciation on Surplus Funds investments was only £4,024.

The finances of the Colony are in a sound condition. The revenue in 1928 covered all expenditure and gave a surplus of £1,789 after meeting the cost of Public Works Extraordinary without drawing on the Surplus Funds of the Colony, which amounted on December 31st to £161,387 while there is also a Reserve Fund of £53,267.

III.—Production.

The total value of exports was £1,156,009. Except for Palm Kernels and Hides representing together only £18,139, the sole export of the Gambia is Groundnuts on which an export duty of £1 a ton is levied.

The tonnage and value of the crop for the last five years has been as follows :—

Year.	*Tons.*	*Value.*
		£
1924	69,622	861,925
1925	48,700	693,097
1926	61,072	862,578
1927	69,240	967,911
1928	76,772	1,122,253

The main percentage distribution of the Groundnut export trade during these years has been:—

Year.	*British.*	*French.*	*German.*	*Dutch.*
1924	54	31	3	5
1925	45	36	5	7
1926	39	28	16	13
1927	6	44	20	20
1928	33	33	20	6

The Agricultural Department distributed 17,041 bags of seed to the native farmers. The cost of this distribution is repaid after the crop is gathered and no bad debts either in regard to Groundnuts or Rice have been made since the Government wrote off the liabilities of the farmers in the Protectorate four years ago.

The price of nuts at the beginning of the 1927—28 season was 2*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*. a bushel or even a little higher towards the end of the season. Nuts were abundant though generally light and of indifferent quality owing to the heavy rainfall.

Increased areas have been devoted to the growing of food stuffs, but no alternative to the staple crop, on which the prosperity of the Colony depends, has as yet been introduced. Guinea corn suffered severely in many localities from Leo disease due to the ravages of Aphid Sorgi. Millet and maize gave good yields and rice, though extensively cultivated, is not produced in sufficient quantity to satisfy local requirements.

Several outbreaks of cattle disease occurred during the year, some 2,300 head being lost in Kombo and over 4,000 in the South Bank Province. At present there is some doubt as to whether the disease is rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia and until the arrival of the veterinary expert, who is expected in the new year, segregation of the infected animals and careful restriction of travelling cattle continue to be the only preventives.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

The following table shows the balance of trade (exclusive of Specie) during the last five years :—

Year.	*Aggregate.*	*Imports. (c.i.f.)*	*Exports. (f.o.b.)*	*Balance of Exports over Imports in £.*
	£	£	£	£
1924	1,563,059	669,700	893,359	223,659
1925	1,388,548	615,927	722,621	106,694
1926	1,555,303	651,137	904,166	253,029
1927	1,862,376	863,376	999,000	135,624
1928	2,166,695	1,010,686	1,156,009	145,323

The largest increases of imports were in Cotton Piece Goods and Rice. The former with 7,122,355 square yards showed an increase of £47,768 over 1927, and the latter with 11,440 tons showed an increase of £32,482 over 1927.

On the other hand, Kola nuts and Tobacco were consumed in less quantities than in 1927, the decrease in value of these two semi-luxuries, as compared with the previous years, being £9,272 and £4,496, respectively. Great Britain supplied most of the following goods :—Apparel, bags and sacks, coal and cement, cottons, lumber, medicine and drugs, oils edible, tobacco and potable spirits. Biscuits, boots, shoes and slippers, hats and caps, rice, soap, sugar, tea and wines were obtained chiefly from France.

The United States of America furnished the greatest value of flour, oil not edible, and motor cars. There is still a preference for vehicles of American production and importations have been of the Ford, Chevrolet and Brockway types.

The percentage of imports for the last five years have been :—

—	*1924*	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*	*1928*
British Empire	64.97	54.65	60.10	51.71	48.22
France	12.89	26.61	24.63	30.65	34.08
Germany ...	6.91	7.57	2.54	5.58	5.19
United States of America	5.23	4.66	4.12	5.38	5.60

From the records for the past twenty-five years it appears that the year 1928 is the first in which the British Empire has provided less than 50 per cent of the total imports of the Colony.

The following is the percentage of revenue to trade during the last five years.

—	*1924*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*
—	% 13.34	% 14.12	% 14.77	% 13.55	% 11.78

V.—Communications.

582 ships of 1,292,397 tons entered and cleared in 1928 as compared with 569 ships of 1,287,081 tons in 1927. 64 per cent were British and 12 per cent French. German, Italian, American, Dutch and Norwegian steamers, though representing only about 20 per cent of the tonnage of the port, bring more than half the imports and carry practically all the exports of the Gambia.

Fifty-nine ships were chartered to remove the Colony's exports of which fifty-eight were foreign.

Until the heavy shipping and port charges at home are reduced, it will be impossible for British ships to compete successfully with their rivals in the carrying trade of this Colony. On general first class cargo from Liverpool, the freights are as high as £3 a ton, from London 50/- a ton, whilst the French ships carry their cargoes from Marseilles and Bordeaux at about £1 a ton plus 2*s.* 6*d.* light dues and handling charges.

His Majesty's Ships "Calcutta" and "Daffodil" and also the cable steamer "Transmitter" called at Bathurst during the year, and Monsieur Jean Lebaudy from Paris in his yacht the "P. Herousa" and Mr. Wearne of Singapore in his yacht "Black Swan" sailed up the Gambia.

In April, the flying boat "Singapore" with Sir Alan and Lady Cobham on board touched here and received a hearty reception.

A French æroplane belonging to the Compagnie Generale Aéropostale made a forced landing in the North Bank Province and was subsequently conveyed to Dakar by road.

The Government river service has been maintained without interruption during the year by the steamers "Prince of Wales" and "Vampire", the latter to be superseded in 1929 by a new vessel of slightly smaller dimensions than the "Prince of Wales", now building at Dartmouth.

A weekly schedule was maintained from November to May, and fortnightly from June to October. The "Prince of Wales" had a total mileage of 12,745 and the "Vampire" of 9,886.

In addition to general transport work, the "Prince of Wales" carries out monthly inspections of the buoys in the estuary and on Bijol Island. She was also instrumental in assisting the S.S. "Antinea" to refloat after grounding in the Kai Hai Channel.

The Governor's Yacht "Mansa Kila Ba" was in commission throughout the year and steamed 6,818 miles.

In addition to the Government flotilla of steamers and launches there are a number of privately owned craft in the Gambia. The cutters and schooners, which were formerly so picturesque a sight on the river, are now being gradually replaced by small steam craft and lighters.

A slight increase was recorded in the number of letters handled during the year and the travelling post offices on the Government steamers have proved a great convenience to the public. The four postal stations up river do a considerable business in money and postal orders. The wireless service has worked efficiently and the telephone system in Bathurst is well supported.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons.

There has been an almost entire absence of serious crimes in the Gambia and of the 30 cases tried by the Supreme Court during the year only two heavy sentences were imposed.

In the Police Magistrate's Court there has been a steady decline since the year 1922 which is attributed to the more settled conditions of trade after the boom of 1920—21.

The native tribunals have discharged their judicial duties with sagacity. The larger number of cases coming before them this year has been due not to increase in crime but to greater efficiency on the part of the Chiefs in its detection and suppression.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has had eleven suits to decide whilst the Court of Requests and the Cadi's Court in Bathurst have not been unduly burdened with cases. There has been more civil litigation in the Protectorate during the last twelve months and this is ascribed to the greater confidence now felt in the justice administered by the native tribunals.

The Police look after the prisons at Bathurst and Georgetown and the fire brigade at Bathurst is also manned by them. In addition to the constabulary at headquarters, there are four small detachments in the Protectorate.

The Band has been increased and its performances give great pleasure to the people.

No cases of drunkenness were reported during the year on the twenty-one licensed premises in Bathurst. The wine and beer shops are well conducted and, in the majority of cases, close, except on holidays and special occasions, before the legal hour.

VII.—Public Works.

As regards the more important undertakings now in hand, the work on the Slipway has been carried on throughout the year and it is anticipated that it will be opened before the trade season commences next year.

Operations in connection with the Bathurst Reclamation Scheme have been gravely hindered by the difficulty in finding material containing a sufficiently low proportion of mud to suit the dredger in the tidal area at the back of the town. When the ten-acre lot now being raised is ready for occupation, it will be laid out as a place of residence for some of the inhabitants whose yards close by are liable to periodic flooding during the rains.

The work on the deviation of the road between Bathurst and Cape St. Mary is nearing completion and will improve the communications with Kombo—the most fertile Province in the Protectorate.

During the year the Bathurst Market has been extended and a new slaughter house provided and on the confines of the town a new Infectious Diseases Hospital is being erected to replace the temporary building which formerly stood there.

Four new bungalows have been built for officers quarters in Buckle Street and Leman Street in accordance with plans prepared by a committee after careful consideration of the types adopted in other parts of Africa. All the official bungalows in Bathurst have now been supplied with baths and sinks and a real boon has been conferred on the public by the opening of a Government Ice Factory.

VIII.—Public Health.

In Bathurst, with its population of 10,473 which is nearly doubled temporarily during a prosperous trade season, there was no epidemic during the year under review.

The deaths exceeded the births, of which 263 were registered, by 144.

Of the rainfall of 57 inches, nearly one-half fell in the month of August. It is during the months from June to October that most of the sickness occurs. It was in November, however, that five cases of yellow fever broke out in Bathurst. The quarantine restrictions which were at once imposed have had a disastrous effect on the 1928/29 trade season. Sanitary arrangements in Bathurst are still primitive but the methods of scavenging which have to be carried out by horse carts have been improved by the purchase of a motor dust cart for use on the metalled roads. Improvements in reclamation and water supply are now under consideration.

There are two Hospitals in the Colony, one at Bathurst the other at Georgetown. At the former, 833 in-patients were admitted and 16,470 out-patients during the year and 162 operations were performed. Georgetown received 260 in-patients and 3,683 out-patients and some 4,000 cases were dealt with by the Protectorate Medical Officer and the Dispensers at Basse and Kau-ur. The infant mortality figures for Bathurst are 395 per thousand, but the effects of the Women and Children Welfare Clinic have been marked and its usefulness extended by the opening of a sub-clinic in New Street at the end of the year.

IX.—Education.

School attendance has remained as irregular during 1928 as in 1927 and compulsory education will have to be enforced before any definite improvement can take place. Of 1694 pupils on the register almost one-half presented themselves for the annual examination. Most of the teachers at work in the schools are not trained and only

a minority hold teachers certificates. Four certificates were granted this year to teachers out of thirteen candidates, but next year it is intended to start definite courses for teachers and also to re-establish a vocational school in Bathurst. Physical instruction and school athletics are encouraged and inter-school sports were held as usual on Empire Day.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides movement has taken firm hold in Bathurst, though it is at present run independently of the Schools. One boy has been sent to Manchester University to study medicine and two boys have been educated at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, with Government scholarships. There are two Mohammedan Schools in the Gambia apart from the village Koran schools. These are at Bathurst and Georgetown and the latter, which has now completed the second year of its existence, has become one of the established institutions of the Gambia.

At it all the future Chiefs and many of the future Headmen of the Gambia are being taught. Its numbers have grown from 70 to 117 of whom 95 are boarders and the accommodation will have to be increased.

The agricultural training there consists entirely of practical work in the school garden, and the whole curriculum is designed with a view to interesting the boys in the country in which their lives will be lived, and to fortifying their characters.

X.—Lands and Survey.

Cadastral surveys are made of plots leased under the Public Lands Ordinance. Leases are granted either from year to year or for a term not exceeding twenty-one years.

In a few cases plans exist of wharf towns made from theodolite traverses, but most of the existing plans are very imperfect being made from compass surveys. No complete survey of the Protectorate has ever been made but successive Anglo-French boundary commissions have delimited its frontiers which terminate with an arc in the Upper River Province.

About £8,000 a year is derived by the Government from rents. There are no large holdings in the Protectorate the land area of which does not much exceed 2,000 square miles.

XI.—Miscellaneous.

The Protectorate Amendment Ordinance and the Protectorate Administration Amendment Rules were the most important pieces

of legislation passed during the year. The former gave the right of appeal to the Supreme Court in all cases, civil and criminal, tried in the first instance by a Commissioner sitting alone or with one or more native members, and in the case of Native Tribunals, composed entirely of native members, gave the aggrieved party the right to have his case re-tried by the Commissioner.

The new Supreme Court Rules made this year are already working well and speeding up litigation in a marked degree.

The first Certificate of Honour ever given in the Protectorate was bestowed on a Chief of Kombo with twenty-eight years' service. This distinction is highly prized by the native authorities.

A collection in Bathurst on Poppy Day for the British Legion produced £138.

Visitors to the Colony included Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., Permanent Under-Secretary of State, and Dr. Stanton, C.M.G., Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State.

A call was also made by the Empire Parliamentary Committee on their way to Nigeria, consisting of the Right Honourable Walter Elliot, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, Captain Garro-Jones, M.P., and the Right Honourable William Lunn, M.P., now Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

During the year the fort on James Island has been excavated and to a small extent repaired. In the seventeenth and eighteenth century it was the scene of much commercial activity and of constant rivalry between ourselves and the French and on more than one occasion was sacked by pirates. In 1726, a memorial to the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations described the Island as "Walled all round, outworks, small arms with stores, etc., formerly mounted with ninety small guns, now with thirty-eight great guns, with several warehouses, with rooms for the Governor, factors, writers, officers, artificers, soldiers and castle slaves, magazines and store houses with a negro-house for two hundred negroes".

C. R. M. WORKMAN,

Colonial Secretary.

15th July, 1929.

APPENDIX I.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade :—

Name.	*Address.*	*Address in Europe (if any).*
United Africa Co., Ltd. ...	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, England.
Le Commerce Africain ...	..	22, Rue Ferrere, Bordeaux, France.
Bathurst Trading Co., Ltd.	..	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, England.
Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	..	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	..	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Gambia Trading Co. ...	Buckle Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, England.
Maurel Frères.	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Vézia ...	..	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux, France.
Palmine, Ltd	..	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C., England.
V. Q. Petersen.	..	—

All the above firms are represented on the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX II.

List of Barristers, Solicitors, and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and *vice versa*.

* S. J. Forster, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

* M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

† G. K. Roberts, Allen Street.

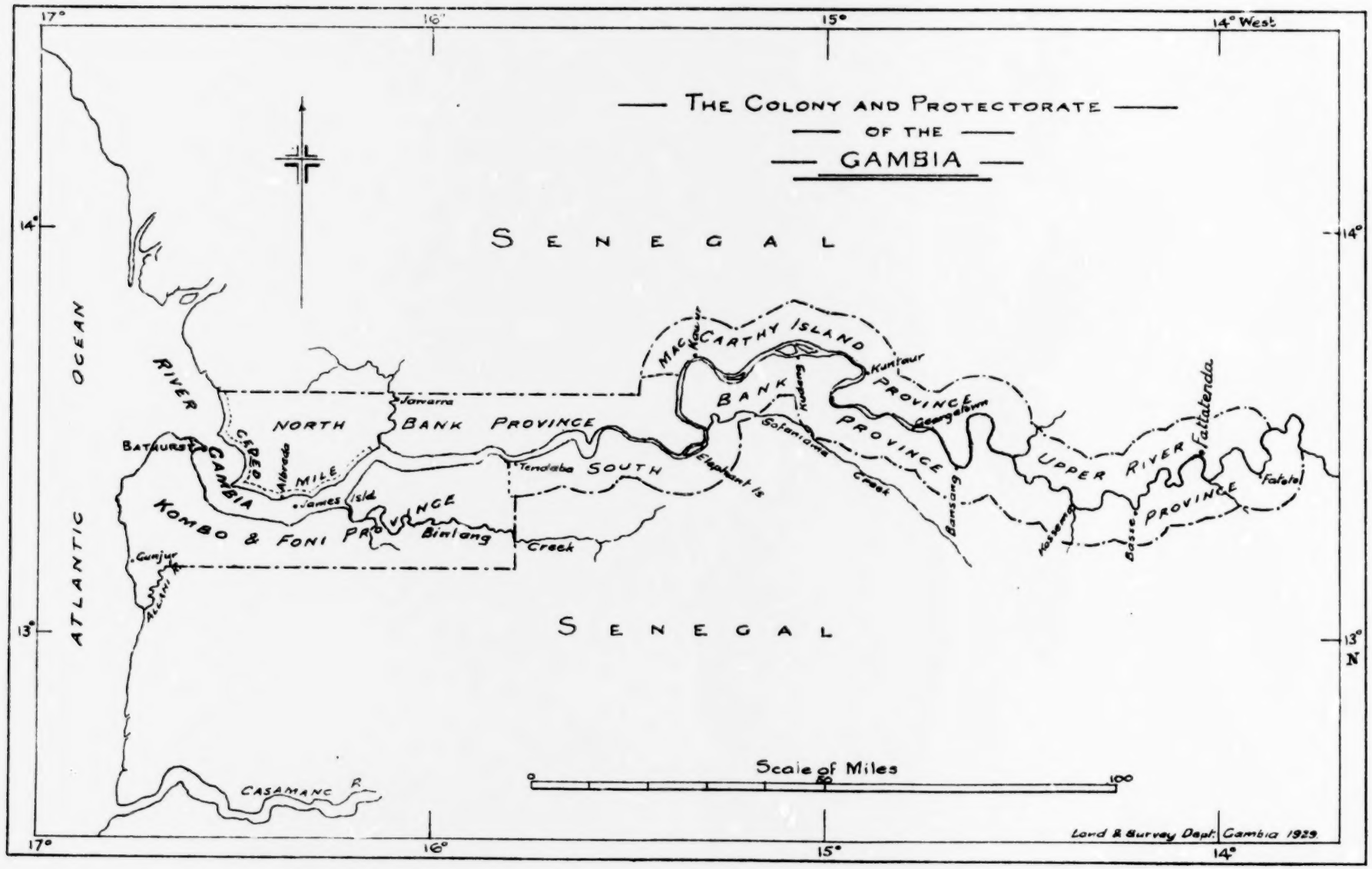
W. D. Carrol, B. A., B. C. L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Picton Street.

G. S. W. Ladepon Thomas, Barrister-at-Law, Clarkson Street.

S. A. Benka-Coker, B.A., (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Gloucester Street.

T. A. Taylor, Barrister-at-Law, Albion Place.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. † Trade Mark Agent.



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REPORT FOR 1929.

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THE GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1929.

History and Geography.

The first descriptive account of the Gambia dates from the middle of the 15th century, when Alvise Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the River in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some forty miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century: an English expedition, fitted out in 1481, was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals".

The annexation of Portugal to Spain under Philip II in 1580 caused the decline of Portuguese maritime enterprise, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was, however, ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for 250 miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntaur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet. This year when the floods were again exceptionally heavy the buildings at Basse, the largest market in the Protectorate in the dry season, were several feet under water.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jollofs, Mandingos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mahommedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mahommedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

The currency is British West African silver and alloy coinage and paper. Since the French five-franc pieces were demonetised in 1922, little silver has been seen in the Protectorate. There was in circulation during the year about £296,000 worth of alloy coinage, and notes to the value of £201,000.

The monetary units and the standards of weights and measures are British, but the people are equally conversant with the metric system owing to their close contact with the neighbouring Colonies.

I. General.

Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., Senior Travelling Commissioner, North Bank Province, a Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, retired at his own request and on account of his age on the 3rd October, 1929. His departure from the Colony in which he had served for twenty-eight years has been a personal loss to the whole community.

II. Finance.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years has been :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Loan.*	*Surplus of Assets over Loan and Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£
1925	189,086	271,836	115,743	104,436
1926	214,181	213,643	103,601	115,116
1927	252,419	277,625	84,171	109,340
1928	255,385	250,596	62,541	135,759
1929	235,265	289,506	37,596	106,463

The expenditure in 1925 included £32,546 for the writing off of the rice and seed nut debts of the Protectorate.

The expenditure in 1927 included the sum of £50,000 which was set aside for the establishment of a Reserve Fund.

The revenue in 1929 included a sum of £21,000, which was transferred from the Steamer Depreciation Fund and used for the purchase of a new river steamer.

The liability to the West African Currency Board incurred in 1922 for the demonetization of the five-franc piece was reduced during 1929 by £24,945.

Customs receipts, which represented nearly 60 per cent of the total revenue of the Colony, brought in £124,396 as against £177,368 in 1928.

A comparison of the four main items of duty during the last five years is as follows. There were serious decreases during 1929 in the revenue from Groundnuts and Kola nuts and in the *Ad Valorem* duties.

Year.	*Export Duty. Groundnuts.*	*Import Duty. Kolanuts.*	*Ad valorem Duties.*	*Tobacco.*
	£	£	£	£
1925	46,124	23,016	16,821	10,748
1926	56,966	32,925	23,318	11,855
1927	64,342	44,795	26,797	17,347
1928	73,809	31,210	33,705	12,846
1929	55,733	24,973	14,510	12,264

The cost price of investments held at the end of 1929 was £206,167. The Securities Depreciation Fund stood at £7,866. The actual depreciation on Surplus Funds investments was £11,553.

The finances of the Colony are in a fairly satisfactory condition provided that the revenues of the Colony are carefully husbanded and that no large works are undertaken in the near future.

The revenue in 1929 covered all the ordinary recurrent expenditure, but the Surplus Funds of the Colony had to be drawn on to meet the cost of Public Works Extraordinary.

The Surplus Funds of the Colony amounted on the 31st December, 1929, to £136,003.

There is also a Reserve Fund of £55,522.

III.—Production.

The total value of exports was £840,929. Except for Palm Kernels and Hides which represented together only £16,387, the sole export of the Gambia is Groundnuts on which an export duty of £1 a ton is levied

The tonnage and value of the groundnut crop for the last five years has been as follows :—

Year.	*Tons.*	*Value.*
		£
1925	48,700	693,097
1926	61,072	862,578
1927	69,240	967,941
1928	76,772	1,122,253
1929	58,090	785,516

The main percentage distribution of the Groundnut export trade during the last five years has been:—

Year.	*British.*	*French.*	*German.*	*Dutch.*
1925	45	36	5	7
1926	39	28	16	13
1927	6	44	20	20
1928	33	33	20	6
1929	16	36	28	11

The Agricultural Department distributed 20,057 bags of seed groundnuts to the native farmers in 1929. The cost of this distribution is repaid after the crop is harvested and sold, and there have been no bad debts, either in respect of seed groundnuts or of the rice that is supplied by Government to the people of the Protectorate on credit, since the liabilities of the farmers in the Protectorate were written off by Government in 1925.

The price paid locally for groundnuts during the 1928—1929 season ranged from 2/1*d* to 2/4½*d* a bushel. The crop was much better than that of the previous year in quality. It was however disappointing in quantity. This was due in part at least to the short spells of drought which followed the first showers.

The areas devoted to the growing of foodstuffs have increased but no alternative to the staple crop on which the prosperity of the Colony depends, has been found so far.

There were good crops of maize and millet. Though rice is cultivated extensively, not enough of it is grown to satisfy local requirements.

Mr. F. A. Stockdale, C. B. E., Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited the Gambia in November and December 1929. Mr. Stockdale made a very valuable report on the work of the Agricultural Department, and suggested the lines on which that Department should be conducted in future.

Severals outbreaks of cattle disease occurred during 1929. Outbreaks of cattle disease occurred in the South Bank, MacCarthy Island and Upper River Provinces.

Arrangements were made for Mr. W. V. Earnshaw, M.R.C.V.S., a Veterinary Officer in Nigeria to visit the Colony with a view to determining the nature of these outbreaks which have caused such a serious loss of stock annually. Mr. Earnshaw made an extensive tour of the Protectorate. The doubt, which had previously existed whether the disease was rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, was dispelled by his diagnosing the disease as rinderpest. In his report Mr. Earnshaw advised the appointment of a Veterinary Officer for the Gambia, and this recommendation will receive careful consideration in the near future.

In the meantime the practice of segregating any infected animals and restricting the movement of cattle in infected areas is being continued.

IV—Trade and Economics.

The following table shows the balance of trade (exclusive of Specie) during the last five years :—

Year.	*Aggregate.*	*Imports. (c.i.f.)*	*Exports. (f.o.b.)*	*Balance of Exports over Imports in £.*
	£	£	£	£
1925	1,388,548	615,927	722,621	106,694
1926	1,555,303	651,137	904,166	53,029
1927	1,862,376	863,376	999,000	135,624
1928	2,166,695	1,010,686	1,156,009	145,323
1929	1,438,090	597,161	840,929	243,768

The only increases of imports were in cement and tea.

There were decreases in all the principal articles imported and a very large decrease in Cotton Piece Goods and somewhat less large decrease in Rice, Cotton Manufactures and Kola nuts. The Cotton Piece

Goods with 3,375,697 yards showed a decrease of £133,322 as compared with the value of the quantity imported in 1928. The decreases in the value of the imports of Rice, Cotton Manufactures and Kolanuts, as compared with previous years were £39,095, £37,887 and £33,778 respectively. Great Britain supplied most of the following goods :—Apparel, cement, coal, cottons, lumber, medicines and drugs, metals, potable spirits, tea. Biscuits, boots, shoes and slippers, hats and caps, rice, sugar and wines were obtained chiefly from France. The United States of America furnished the greatest value of flour, motorcars and non-edible oils.

The percentage of imports for the last five years has been :—

—	*1925*	*1926*	*1927*	*1928*	*1929*
British Empire	54.65	60.10	51.71	48.22	45.11
France	26.61	24.63	30.65	34.08	38.65
United States of America	4.55	4.12	5.38	5.60	6.63
Germany ...	7.57	2.51	5.58	5.19	2.63

1928 and 1929 are the only years since 1904 in which the British Empire has provided less than fifty per cent of the total imports of the Colony.

The following is the percentage of revenue to trade during the last five years.

1925	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*
%	%	%	%	%
14.12	14.77	13.55	11.78	16.56

V.—Communications.

545 ships of 1,280,888 tons entered and cleared in 1929 as compared with 582 ships of 1,292,397 tons in 1928. 68 per cent were British and 13 per cent French. German, American, Norwegian and Dutch steamers, though they represent only about 1½ per cent of the tonnage of the port, carry a very considerable portion both of the imports and exports of the Gambia.

His Majesty's ships "Calcutta" and "Delphinium" called at Bathurst during 1929.

In March 1929 the s.s. "Arcadian" called at Bathurst at the end of her voyage round Africa.

The Government river service has been maintained without interruption during 1929 by the steamers "Prince of Wales" "Vampire" and "Lady Denham". After nearly fifteen years most useful service, the "Vampire" was superseded in September 1929 by the "Lady Denham", a new vessel of slightly smaller dimensions than the "Prince of Wales".

A weekly schedule was maintained from November to May and fortnightly from June to October. The "Prince of Wales" had a total mileage of 12,584 and the "Vampire" of 6,366 and the "Lady Denham" of 4,032.

In addition to general transport work, the "Prince of Wales" carries out monthly inspections of the buoys in the estuary and of the light on Bijol Island.

The Governor's Yacht "Mansa Kila Ba" was in commission throughout the year and steamed 4,260 miles.

In addition to the Government flotilla of steamers and launches, there are a number of privately owned craft in the Gambia. The cutters and schooners, formerly so picturesque a sight on the river, are rapidly being replaced by small steam craft and lighters.

An increase of nearly 25 per cent in the number of letters handled during 1929 was recorded. The travelling post offices on the Government steamers are a great convenience to the public. The four postal stations in the Protectorate do an appreciable business in money and postal orders. The wireless service has worked efficiently and the telephone system in Bathurst is well supported.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons.

There has been again an almost entire absence of serious crimes in the Gambia. Only 13 cases were tried by the Supreme Court during 1929.

There was an increase of about 45 per cent in the cases tried in the Police Magistrate's Court in 1929 as compared with those tried there in the previous year. The increase in the number of cases is due mainly to a greater number of prosecutions instituted under the Public Health and Motor Traffic Ordinances.

The number of cases which came before the native tribunals during 1929 was about 12 per cent less than in the year before. The native tribunals continued to discharge their judicial duties very satisfactorily.

The Police Department sustained a loss by the retirement on pension in 1929 of Captain C. H. Greig, O.B.E., who had been Commissioner of Police for more than twelve years, and of Inspector Moore whose services with the Force dated back to 1896, and who was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in 1929.

The Police Force under Captain N. S. Flint, M.C., who had been temporarily seconded from Nigeria, handled very satisfactorily a small labour disturbance in Bathurst in November, 1929.

There are now two Police outstation detachments in the Protectorate. During 1929 the prison at Georgetown was closed down and the prisoners were removed to the prison at Bathurst which is in the charge of the Police Department. The fire brigade at Bathurst is manned by the Police Force.

The performances of the Police Band continue to give much pleasure to the inhabitants of Bathurst.

There are eighteen licensed premises in Bathurst. The premises are well conducted and are frequently closed before the legal hour for closing. No cases of drunkenness were reported during 1929.

VII—Public Works.

The work on the Slipway was carried on throughout 1929 and at the end of the year it was rapidly approaching completion.

The Reclamation Scheme has continued to make slow progress, the main obstacle, as in previous years, being the difficulty of finding suitable material for the operations of the dredger on the tidal area at the back of Bathurst. The ten-acre lot was nearing completion at the end of 1929 and, when completed, will be laid out as plots of land for those whose present homes near by are liable to be flooded during the rains.

The work on the new part of the road from Bathurst to Cape St. Mary was completed during 1929.

The improvements to the Bathurst Market were completed as well as the new Infectious Diseases Hospital.

A new Out-patient building was erected for the Medical Department, and a new Home for the Infirm was begun near the Prison to replace the inadequate accommodation provided in the building which was used for the purpose and known as the Home for Destitutes.

Four new bungalows have been built for Officers quarters on sites near the foreshore at the western end of the Marina.

During 1929, improved garage and workshop accommodation at the Public Works Department was begun and completed.

New school buildings for the Armitage School at Georgetown were begun in 1929.

VIII. Public Health.

The population of Bathurst is about 10,664. The deaths exceeded the births—of which 315 were registered—by 143.

There was no epidemic during 1929.

The rainfall for 1929 was 52 inches, over 20 inches fell in August.

It is during the months from June to October that most of the cases of sickness occur.

There are two Hospitals in the Colony, one at Bathurst, and the other at Georgetown. At the former 723 in-patients were admitted and 16,506 out-patients attended during 1929 and 224 operations were performed. 292 in-patients were admitted to, and 3,856 out-patients attended, the Georgetown Hospital. Over 5,497 cases were dealt with by the Protectorate Medical Officer and the Dispensers at Basse and Kau-ur.

Although the infant mortality figures for Bathurst are 333 per thousand, very useful work is being done by the Women and Children Welfare Clinic.

IX. Education.

During 1929, a separate Education Department under a Superintendent of Education was started. Of the 2,129 pupils on the registers of the schools in Bathurst, about one-half presented themselves for the annual examination and 743 passed the examination. The school attendance is still very far from being regular.

During 1929, a teachers training school was started for the training of primary school teachers. Most of the teachers are untrained and about fifty of them are now receiving training.

A vocational school was restarted in Bathurst in June, 1929.

Physical instruction and school athletics are encouraged and the usual inter-school sports were held on Empire Day.

Three boys and two girls have been given Government scholarships to institutions outside the Colony.

One boy is studying medicine at Manchester University and the other two were awarded scholarships to Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone. The two girls have been sent to St. Joseph's Convent in Freetown for training in domestic subjects.

Apart from the village Koran schools, there are two Mohammedan Schools in the Gambia, one at Bathurst and the other, known as the Armitage School from its founder, a previous Governor, at Georgetown. The latter has become one of the established institutions of the Gambia. The number of pupils increased during 1929 to 139, of whom 113 were boarders.

The object of the school is to interest the boys in their country and to strengthen their characters.

A small Vernacular School was started at Bakau near Bathurst during 1929. The boys attending the school are taught to read and write their own language, Mandingo, in English characters.

Six Boy Scouts were sent from the Gambia to the World Jamboree at Birkenhead in 1929.

X. Lands and Survey.

Surveys are made of plots leased under the Public Lands Ordinance, the leases being granted either from year to year or for a term not exceeding twenty-one years.

About £5,000 a year is derived by the Government from rents. 535 leases and 94 wharf licences have been granted but there are no large holdings in the Protectorate.

XI. Miscellaneous.

Nineteen Ordinances and seventeen Regulations were passed during 1929.

The Supreme Court Appeals Ordinance was the important Ordinance passed in 1929.

An inter-colonial cricket match between representatives of this Colony and Sierra Leone was played at Bathurst in January, 1929. The Gambia XI won by nine wickets.

The collection made in the Colony for the British Legion on Poppy Day, 1929, amounted to £141. 14*s.* 6*d.*

B. A. FINN,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

12th August, 1930.

APPENDIX I.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade :—

Name.	*Address.*	*Address in Europe (if any).*
United Africa Co., Ltd. ...	Wellington Street	Africa House, Kingsway, London, W. C.
Le Commerce Africain ...	,,	22, Rue Ferrere, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	,,	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	,,	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Maurel Frères Société Anonyme.	,,	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Vézia ...	,,	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux, France.
V. Q. Petersen	,,	—

All the above firms are represented on the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX II.

List of Barristers, Solicitors, and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and *vice versa*.

* S. J. Forster, O.B.E., J.P., M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

* M. J. R. Pratt, J.P., M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

† G. K. Roberts, Buckle Street.

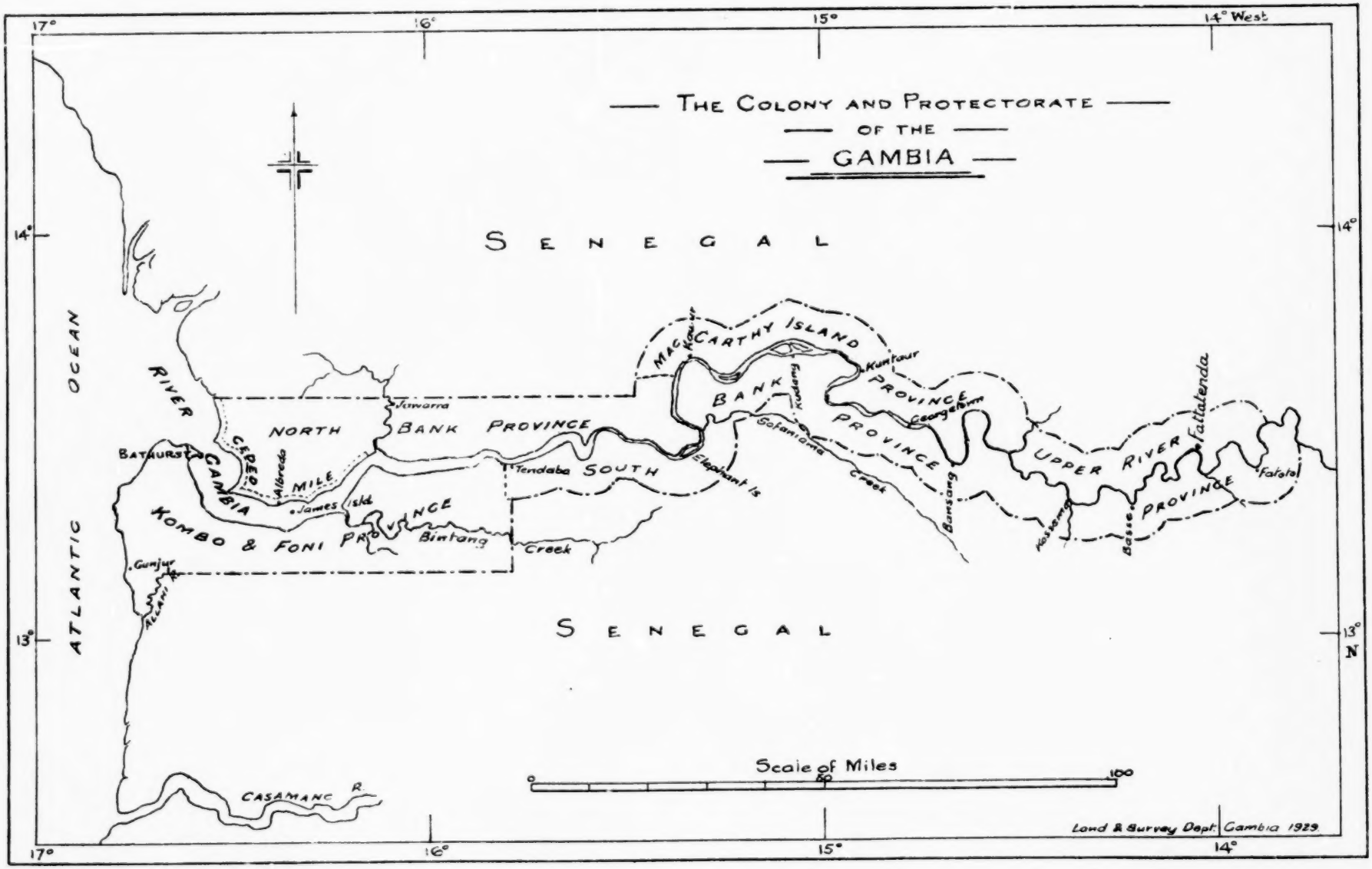
W. D. Carrol, B.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Picton Street.

G. W. S. Ladepon-Thomas, Barrister-at-Law, Clarkson Street.

S. A. Benka-Coker, B.A., (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Gloucester Street.

T. A. Taylor, Barrister-at-Law, Cameron Street.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. † Trade Mark Agent.



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EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 9*d.*).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d.* (7*d.*).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6*d.* (8*d.*).

Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6*d.* (8*d.*).

Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9*d.* (11*d.*).

Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 10*d.*).

Wool, a study of the fibre. September, 1929. (E.M.B. 21.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 11*d.*).

The Demand for Cheese in London. November, 1929. (E.M.B. 22.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

The Growing Dependence of British Industry upon Empire Markets. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 23.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Insect Infestation of Stored Cacao. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 24.) 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*).

Indian Sunn (or Sann) Hemp. Its Production and Utilization. February, 1930. (E.M.B. 25.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

British Industries and Empire Markets. March, 1930. (E.M.B. 26.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Cocoa. World Production and Trade. May, 1930. (E.M.B. 27.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Empire Marketing Board. May, 1929 to May, 1930. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 28.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

The Biological Control of Insect and Plant Pests. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 29.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927–29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 31.) 1*s.* 0*d.* (1*s.* 1*d.*)

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REPORT FOR 1930.

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GAMBIA

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1930.

History and Geography.

The Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia is situated on both the North and South bank of the River Gambia in Western Africa. The river which is approximately 700 miles in length runs in a westerly direction and falls into the Atlantic Ocean between 13° and 14° North Latitude and 16° and 17° West Longitude.

The Colony has an area of about 69 square miles and consists of the Island of Saint Mary (about 4 square miles)—on which is situated the town of Bathurst and seat of Government—and parts of Kombo, Albreda, MacCarthy Island, etc., (population of Colony 10,000).

The Protectorate which extends on both banks of the river for 250 miles has an area of 4,130 square miles and a population of 200,000.

Gambia was discovered by the early Portuguese navigators about the middle of the 15th Century but no settlement was made there. During the 17th century various companies of merchants having obtained Charters to trade made settlements on the River but general commerce between Gambia and Europe was spasmodic until the year 1816 when a new settlement was made and the seat of Government was established at Bathurst. The settlement however was subject to the Government and Laws of Sierra Leone until the year 1843 when the Gambia became an independent Crown Colony. Later in 1866, it became part of the Government of the West African Settlements and continued so until finally in 1888 it became a separate Government.

With the exception of the Island of Saint Mary, the whole of the Gambia is administered on the Protectorate system which has been established since 1894.

The inhabitants are mostly of the African races. The chief tribes being the Jollofs, Mandingos, Sarahulis, Fulas and Jolas. The Mandingos are the most numerous and are mostly Muhammedans as are also the Jollofs and the Sarahulis. The Jolas and many of the Fulas are pagan.

PROTECTORATE.

Upper River.

The Upper River Province. Comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu, Fuladu East, has an area of 703 square miles and a population of 34,011. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandingos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province is situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important trading towns in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

Sandu was originally part of the Niani territory which appears to have extended also over both the Niani districts, Sami and MacCarthy Island (now all in MacCarthy Island Province). This kingdom was ruled by the members of the Sabali family for many years until they were defeated by a Muhammedan invader.

Kantora is at present under the charge of a Chief who is the son of a former King in the district. The Sagnia family are able to trace their descent for many generations in which theirs was the ruling family in Kantora.

Wuli. In this district the Wali family, members of which had for a long period been kings, remained the ruling family after British Protection had been extended to the district, when they took the status of Chiefs. The present Chief, however, does not trace his ancestry to this family but was appointed in view of his very strong following in the district.

MacCarthy Island Province. The boundaries of this Province were altered in October 1930 and the area and population were raised by the change from 565 square miles and 28,860 persons to 1,170 square miles and 55,393 persons. The bulk of the population are Joloffs with a number of Mandingos.

The following districts, all of which lie on the north bank of the river, formerly made up the Province; Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Nianija, Niani and Sami, together with MacCarthy Island which is an outlying portion of the Colony and on which is situated Georgetown the Headquarters of the Province.

The new districts added in October 1930 were Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Fuladu West and Fuladu Central. These latter districts have about doubled the area of the Province but, owing to its compactness, administration with the same staff as formerly is not proving difficult.

Towards the end of the year MacCarthy Island itself was brought under the Protectorate system. The Police Court which formerly existed there was abolished and a Native Tribunal set up similar to

those in other districts. This alteration has resulted in greater harmony and trust between MacCarthy Island and the other districts of the same Province, while the Chief of MacCarthy Island and his helpers have taken over with enthusiasm many of those functions which were formerly exercised directly by Government.

Lower River.

The South Bank Province was extended during the year by the incorporation of the Kombo and Foni Province while the districts of Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Fuladu West and Fuladu Central were transferred from this Province to MacCarthy Island Province. The effect of this on the area and population of the Province was to increase the former from 925 to 1,310 square miles and the latter from 39,768 to 48,660 persons. The Province comprised at the end of the year Eastern Jarra, Central Jarra, Western Jarra, Kiang Central, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Foni Brefet, Foni Bintang, Kombo South, Kombo Central, Kombo North and Kombo St. Mary.

The majority of the inhabitants of the Province are Mandingoes but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly districts while the Foni districts are almost entirely Jola in population.

This Province, like the North Bank Province, extends in parts to a greater depth from the river than the provinces of the Upper River which consist only of a belt of country on either side of the river.

The Bintang Creek which cuts through the Province has always made communication difficult between the eastern and western ends of the Province but a ferry is now being installed which will overcome this handicap.

North Bank Province has an area of 813 square miles and a population of 63,237. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandingo in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandingoes, Joloffs and Turankoes (Muhammedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Joloff and Mandingo districts.

Like South Bank Province this Province is cut into two parts by a creek which runs from the river to a point well beyond the boundary of the Protectorate and Senegal. In this case also a ferry is being installed.

There are two portions of this Province which were formerly parts of native kingdoms of considerable size.

Baddibu, Lower, Central and Upper were all at one time under the rule of one King, himself a sub-king to the King of Saloum, whose own home lay in what is now part of Senegal. It is only within the last twenty years that Baddibu has been divided into three parts and

the brother (now deceased) of the present Chief of Upper Baddibu was the first Chief of that district after the division. Although the Baddibu Kings were chosen at various times from one of three or four different towns the present Chief's family was the last to hold the office.

The two Niumi Districts also were formerly part of a kingdom which extended beyond the present boundaries of these two districts. The ruling family in this case was that of the Sonkos, of which the Chiefs of both Upper and Lower Niumi are members.

PROTECTORATE CHIEFS AND HEADMEN.

Local administration in the Protectorate hinges on the Chiefs (native Seif or Sefo) and the Headmen or Alkalis, the Alkali being responsible to the Sefo for his town and the Sefo to the Travelling Commissioner of the Province for his district.

The Alkali is chosen by the old men of the village and his position is confirmed by the Travelling Commissioner. He acts as representative of his village to the Government and *vice versa* and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots to those who need it unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Sefo holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandingo word for King (Mansa) is only applied now to the Governor who is, in native phrase the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word does reflect the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Chief one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy therefore to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Chief's utility and prestige.

The Sefo is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a Chief. Apart from general administrative duties and supervision of his district the Sefo is the President of the Native Tribunal of his district, in which, with a quorum of two Court Members appointed by the Governor, he exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Travelling Commissioner.

I. General.

The Gambia is administered by the Governor with an Executive and nominated Legislative Council.

Sir Edward Denham, K.B.E., C.M.G., left the Colony on 13th January, and relinquished the Governorship of the Colony.

Mr. H. R. Palmer, C.M.G., C.B.E., arrived in the Colony and assumed the administration of the Colony and Protectorate on 11th September.

II. Finance.

The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years and the Balance of Loan outstanding at the close of the years, together with the Surplus Balances.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*	*Loan.*	*Surplus of Assets over Loan and Liabilities.*
	£	£	£	£
1926	214,181	213,643	103,601	115,116
1927	252,419	277,625	84,171	109,340
1928	255,385	250,596	62,541	135,759
1929	235,265	289,506	37,596	106,463
1930	216,739	253,228	13,721	93,849

Revenue. In 1929 the amount shewn includes £27,500 transferred from Depreciation Fund being amount of surplus provision for depreciation over actual market depreciation.

Expenditure. In 1926 the amount shewn includes £5,025 set aside for Depreciation of Securities.

In 1927 £50,000 was set aside for establishment of a Reserve Fund.

In 1929 £20,797 was expended on a new river steamer, (the "Lady Denham")

Assets. In addition to the Surplus Assets as at 30th December, 1931, shewn above, there are Reserve Funds amounting to £74,664 not included in the sum of £93,849.

Loans. The Loan of £13,721 is the amount outstanding due to the West African Currency Board, provision for the repayment of which has been made in the Estimates of 1931.

Investments. The Colony's investments at the end of 1930 stand at over £200,000.

Customs.

Customs Receipts during the year 1930 amounted to £139,927, or 64.5 per cent of the total Revenue.

The chief items of Duties during the last five years were :—

Year.	Import Duties.			*Export Duty. on Groundnuts.*
	Ad valorem	*on Kolanuts.*	*on Tobacco.*	
	£	£	£	£
1926	23,348	32,925	11,855	56,966
1927	26,797	44,795	17,347	64,342
1928	33,706	31,210	12,846	73,809
1929	14,510	24,973	12,264	55,733
1930	12,509	24,471	11,492	74,309

III. Production.

The main product is the groundnut the export of which amounts annually to about 60,000 tons.

Rice and corn are also produced in small quantities by the people for their own consumption.

Fish abounds at the mouth of the River and finds a ready sale in the local markets. Some quantities of fish are also dried and sent into the Protectorate for sale.

Other industries include Pottery, Leather work and Beeswax. Fruit and Vegetables are scarce, but are becoming more plentiful owing to the effort of the Agricultural Department in Kombo.

The total value of Exports was £898,807 as compared with £840,929 for the previous year.

With the exception of comparatively small quantities of Palm Kernels and Hides (on which no export duty is levied) the only export of the Gambia is groundnuts on which an export duty of 20/- per ton is charged.

The tonnage and value of the crop for the last five years has been as follows :—

Year.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	Tons.	£
1926	61,072	862,578
1927	69,240	967,941
1928	76,772	1,122,253
1929	58,090	785,516
1930	74,761	867,634

A certain quantity of rice, corn and other foodstuffs is grown in the Protectorate for consumption there but no accurate statistics are available as to these quantities.

IV. Trade and Economics.

The following Table shows the balance of trade (exclusive of specie) during the last five years.

Year.	*Aggregate Trade.*	*Imports. (c.i.f.)*	*Exports. (f.o.b.)*	*Balance of Exports over Imports.*
	£	£	£	£
1926	1,555,303	651,137	904,166	253,029
1927	1,862,376	863,376	999,000	135,624
1928	2,166,695	1,010,686	1,156,009	145,323
1929	1,438,090	597,161	840,929	243,768
1930	1,428,792	529,985	898,807	368,822

The largest Imports during the year included in the above were :—

	£
Rice	114,578
Cotton Piece Goods ...	78,993
Kola Nuts	48,836
Cotton Manufactures (other)	20,725
Oils not edible... ...	19,236
Sugar	18,502
Tobacco	16,683

Great Britain supplied most of the following :—

Apparel, Bags and Sacks, Boots, Shoes and Slippers, Coal, Cement, Cotton Piece Goods and Cotton Manufactures (other). France was the chief supplier of Biscuits, Cotton Yarn, Hats and Caps, Rice, Soap, Sugar and Wines, whilst the United States of America supplied the greatest value of Flours Wheaten, Motor Cars, Motor Spirit, Kerosene and Tobacco.

From Sierra Leone are imported Kola Nuts.

The percentage of Imports, exclusive of specie, from all countries was during the last five years as follows :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
United Kingdom ...	44.28	38.76	37.99	34.42	34.39
British Possessions ...	15.82	12.95	10.23	10.69	11.11
Total British Empire ...	60.10	51.71	48.22	45.11	45.50
France	24.63	30.65	34.08	39.65	29.75
Other Countries ...	15.27	28.44	17.70	15.24	34.75
TOTALS ...	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

whilst the percentage of Exports, exclusive of specie, to all countries, was as follows :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
United Kingdom ...	37.32	08.20	33.80	15.18	19.35
British Possession ...	02.43	00.47	00.57	03.64	01.96
Totals British Empire ...	39.75	08.67	34.37	18.82	21.31
France	25.80	42.10	30.92	33.03	39.95
Germany	14.26	19.72	20.60	28.01	17.82
Holland	16.47	20.70	05.81	10.26	16.17
Other Countries ...	3.72	8.81	10.30	9.88	4.75
TOTALS ...	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

V. Communications.

Shipping. The total number of ships which entered and cleared during the year was 572 of 1,239,151 tons net burthen as compared with 565 ships of a tonnage of 1,280,888 for the previous year.

The percentage of shipping of various nationalities was as follows:—

British 62, French 12, German 6, Norwegian 6, American 5, Dutch 3, Swedish 3, Other Countries 3.

Many small craft ply on the river and the Government has maintained a regular service of steamers which have carried over 21,000 passengers and a large quantity of freight during the year.

Roads. The road from Bathurst to Cape Saint Mary, a distance of about eight miles, still remains the only properly metalled road in the Gambia.

In the Protectorate local earth roads are kept up by the local inhabitants in their own interests and at their discretion. These roads are, for the most part, capable of carrying during the dry season the moderate amount of wheeled traffic which passes over them, but during the latter half of the rains they become impassable.

A small programme of "all season" roads in certain parts of the Upper and the Lower River, has been initiated. These roads will be constructed by the Public Works Department as funds and opportunity permit.

Lower River. Towards the close of the year preliminary steps were taken to establish routes of all-the-year-round communication from Bathurst with the neighbouring French posts of Kaolack (Saloum) and Kolda (Cassamance) respectively.

To this end the Acting Director of Public Works in collaboration with the Commissioners concerned and other interests has surveyed an existing route from Barra to Bantanding, North Bank Province, from which point a good route will proceed north and be continued by the French through N'Jai Kunda to Kaolack.

From Bantanding again an all season route will proceed South East through Drame Joka to Dar-es-Salami and thence by ferry over the Jawarra Creek to Kerewan. Continuing from Kerewan it will pass *via* Saba, N'Jai Kunda and Iliassa to Kachang Tenda—whence passengers and lorries will be transported by a ferry, now completed, to Tendaba.

From Tendaba a route, already half made, leads down to the Bintang Ferry on the one hand, and the French routes leading to Kolda on the other.

These routes when completed and in working order should be of very considerable advantage not only to the Gambia but to Senegal.

Upper River. Another route which should be of service not only for internal communication but also to facilitate transport between the Gambia and both Senegal and the Cassamance is an existing road across MacCarthy Island Province. Starting on the north side of the river from a point near to the French town of Makka Gui, the road runs *via* Kuntaur to Bansang where a ferry is installed. It continues on the south side of the river and links up with the main road to Kolda in the Cassamance.

FERRIES.

Lower River. There is a privately controlled ferry service which runs from Bathurst to Barra on the northern shore of the river. This enterprise receives an annual subsidy from Government and is a link between Bathurst and the Lower River road system referred to above.

In addition to this there are, either already installed or nearing completion, a number of Government operated ferries.

The Bintang Creek ferry in the Foni District of South Bank Province has already been installed, while one across the Swarrakunda (or Jawara) Creek and another crossing the main river from Katchang Tenda to Konkoba are almost completed. These three ferries form an important part of the road scheme in the Lower River.

Upper River. Of the three ferries which formerly linked MacCarthy Island to the river banks two are removed and installed in the Upper River Province to facilitate river crossing, while the third has been removed to Bansang where it will form the central link in the new Upper River scheme of roads referred to above.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The Wireless Stations at Bathurst, Basse, Kuntaur and Georgetown facilitate rapid communication with the up-river trading Stations.

The Postal service of letters and parcels also extends to the Protectorate by the Government river steamers.

VI. Justice, Police and Prisons.

Serious crime was of rare occurrence throughout the year. Only 15 cases were tried in the Supreme Court but the number of civil cases decided by the Court was 75 compared with 54 in 1929.

In the Police Magistrate's Court the total number of cases was 447, a decrease of 102 on the figures for 1929. The number of cases of larceny was 86 as compared with 85 in 1929.

The Court of Requests in the course of the year decided 1,185 cases, an increase of 9 over last year, while the Muhommedan Court has experienced an increase of cases from 87 in 1929 to 114 in 1930.

In the Protectorate the Native Tribunals have dealt with 1,198 cases, an increase of 50 on the 1929 figures. Each of the last three years shows a decided increase over any year from 1922 to 1927 in the number of cases tried by these Courts, and this is believed to be due to the growing public confidence in the Courts, which leads persons to seek their protection and to report offences to them.

During the year the Police detachments at Basse and Georgetown were withdrawn to Bathurst and no Police now remain in the Protectorate, where the duties of the Police are performed by local "Badged Messengers".

Four fires were dealt with by the Police in Bathurst; none were of a serious nature.

The Police also perform Warder duty at the Gaol.

Two musketry courses were fired during the year and the average scores obtained were 69.74 and 71.36 respectively.

The number of cases reported to the Police during the year was 382; of these 133 were trivial cases in which no proceedings were taken by the Police, while 21 for want of evidence were not brought before the Court. Of the remaining 228, 83 were for larceny and 21 for offences against the Immigration Ordinance.

The total number of prisoners admitted to Gaol in 1930 was 359 and the average number was 56.15.

VII. Public Works.

The surfacing of a number of Roads in Bathurst and from Bathurst to Sukuta was carried out during the year, including tar paving of certain sections of motorable roads.

Motor traffic continues to increase. There were 86 cars and 174 lorries registered during the year.

Electric Light and Power is generated at the Public Works Power Station in Bathurst which supplies private consumers at 9*d.* per unit.

Free services include lighting of streets, public offices and the Government Wharf.

Ice is also manufactured and sold at 1*d.* per lb. to private consumers and delivered free to the Hospital.

An extension of the electric light service to Cape Saint Mary is now under construction.

The town of Bathurst is supplied from the reservoir at Abuko where nearly 43 million gallons of water were pumped during the year.

There is a Fire Protection Plant established in Bathurst.

The Marine Slipway, to enable Government and other vessels to be drawn up for overhaul and repairs by the Marine Department, was completed during the year.

New Police Lines were completed.

A landing ground at Cape Saint Mary for the Royal Air Force was cleared and prepared.

Groyning of the foreshore to trap the silt and build up the foreshore was carried out.

Certain improvements were effected in the Bathurst market which has now a Refrigerating Plant for the preservation of meat.

A number of works was done in the Protectorate including the conversion of the Old Gaol at Georgetown into a Hospital.

Reclamation at Half-Di by the dredger was discontinued on account of unsatisfactory results due to the difficulty of finding ideal sand beds. Reclamation is now being carried out by cartage of sand etc. by hand and of mud by canoe in the Lasso Wharf area.

VIII. Public Health.

The population of Bathurst has been estimated at 10,859.

During the year there were 350 births and 383 deaths (adults 294 and infants up to one year of age 89).

There was no epidemic during 1930.

There are two Hospitals in the Colony, one at Bathurst and the other at Georgetown. At the former there were 639 admissions and 52,797 Out-patients were attended to. 292 operations were performed, whilst at Georgetown there were 304 admissions into hospital and 4,458 Out-patients were treated.

To provide additional hospital accommodation at Georgetown the buildings formerly utilised for a gaol were converted into a hospital, and the old hospital buildings are now used as quarters for the Medical Officer and Superintendent of Education.

At the Dispensaries at Basse and Kau-ur the cases treated were 4,419 and 2,375 respectively.

About 85 per cent of the total births in Bathurst were attended by the staff of the Mother and Child Welfare Clinics.

The infant mortality rate for the community is steadily declining.

A Dental Surgeon visited Bathurst and inspected and treated 223 school children and 86 Government officials and clerks during the year.

During the year an Ordinance entitled " The Urban District and Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance, 1930 " was enacted creating a Municipal Board numbering 14 of which 4 are officials, 4 other members are appointed annually by the Governor and 6 others by the ratepayers of Bathurst, now divided into six wards. This new Board is an expansion of the former Board of Health.

RECLAMATION AND NIGHT SOIL REMOVAL.

Refuse. Removal of domestic and yard refuse is carried out by motor vehicle and horse and cart transport. A large proportion of the refuse is not burned but covered over with mud to reclaim land from swamp.

Night Soil. The experiment has been tried of the removal of latrine buckets by motor transport and of dumping night soil around the edge of Saint Mary Island to the South. The service has proved successful, and has much improved the amenities of the North foreshore.

Reclaimed Area. Citizens who were removed from the submerged area in Half Di have been allotted good sites on the area reclaimed and it is anticipated that health conditions on the cleared area should be greatly improved thereby.

The Public Health (Building) Regulations 1930 came into effect in October 1930.

IX. Education.

The total number of pupils on the register of the affiliated and the Mohammedan Schools in Bathurst in 1930 was 1,647, with an average attendance of 1,032.

A new secondary school was opened in January by the Roman Catholic Mission and there are now two secondary schools for boys and one for girls.

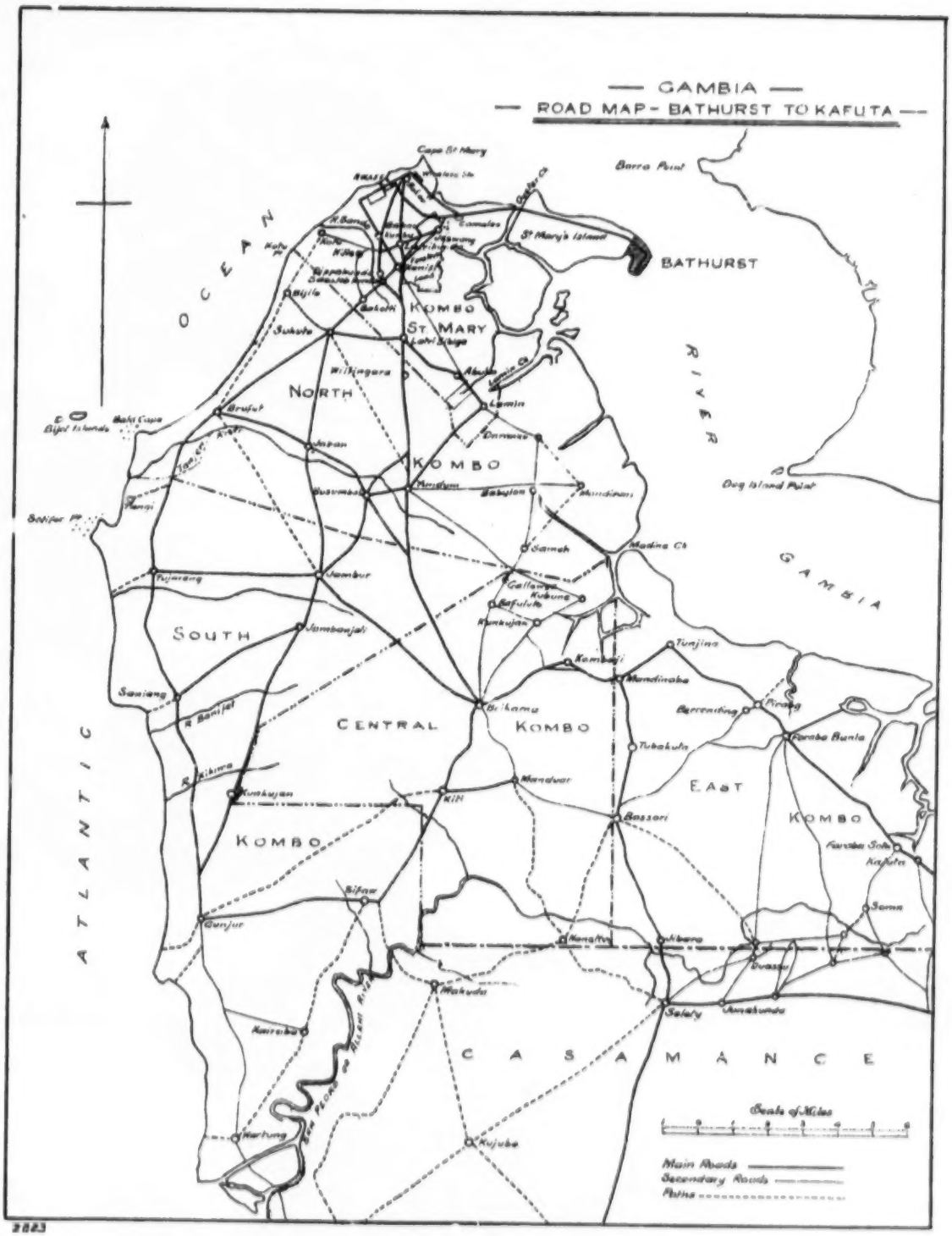
One of the most important features of the year was the opening of the Teacher Training School. Education in Bathurst has always suffered from lack of trained teachers and until satisfactory training was assured no advance in the educational standard was possible. The new Teacher Training School is designed to supply this need.

In the Protectorate two new Vernacular Schools have been opened by Government during the year and the Wesleyan Mission has re-organised a third school of this nature.

A European Headmaster arrived in November and took charge of the Government School at Georgetown, which now has 136 pupils on its register with an average attendance of 132.

H. DENSHAM SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

14th July, 1931.


— GAMBIA —
— ROAD MAP - BATHURST TO KAFUTA —
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St Mary's Island
Barra Point
Cape St Mary
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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1931.

Chapter I. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

In the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th centuries the Arabs acquired and recorded a good deal of information about the interior of West Africa, but the cartography of Senegambia remained still a blank south of the Gezola or Geziala Tuareg of the Seguiet-el-Hamra (Wadi Targa) when the Genoese Giovanni di Caringnano made his planisphere in 1320.

In the 12th and 13th centuries, however, the numerous Jewish trading communities which traded mainly in gold from such centres as Tuat and Nul Lamta (Wadi Draa) south to Melli (Bambuk) and beyond, had acquired so much information about the Western Sudan and Sahara that the maps of the cartographers of Majorca as, for instance, the planisphere of Angelino Dulcert (Majorca) 1339 A.D., and that of the converted Jew Mecia de Viladestes 1413 A.D. show a considerable advance in recorded knowledge.

The latter shows Taghazza or Taodeni of the salt mines (the Tirek of the El Bekri) as Tutega, and also Taerur, the country of the Tucolor, and for the first time the Gambia River is shown under the name "N'gelaka". To the North of the N'gelaka is a name Ude or Wude, also a country and cape called Abach as well as Ibsengar (the Senegal River). In the valley of the river N'gelaka, a place called Tegerut is shown, the name being probably akin to the name N'gelaka, both being derived from the Berber N'gel, N'gar, or N'gir with Berber ending -ek or -ik. Angelico Dulcert shows, to the south of the coast region called Abach, a people called Felle who are probably identical with the Ude of Viladestes, i.e., Fulbe.

Though Phœnician sailors from Gadeira (Cadiz) are said to have traded down the West Coast of Africa, the first recorded European exploratory expedition to the Gambia by sea was that of the Genoese Antonie Usodimare, who, on the 12th December, 1455, wrote to his relatives that he had "gone 800 leagues further than any other Christian" and had navigated his 'caravel' as far as the Gamba (Gambia).

Usodimare had left Genoa about the time of the death of the King of Spain, John II of Castile in 1454, at a time when the Spaniards were busy protesting to the Pope against the Portuguese expeditions to Cape Bogador and beyond, but Usodimare's interests or sympathies led him to take back to Lisbon an envoy from a Gambian chief, and agree to make a second voyage to the Gambia as an envoy of the King of Portugal, Alphonso V.

In the letter above quoted, he remarks that he is to sail again in ten days from Lisbon. He also says that the envoy from the Gambian chief was a descendant of a Portuguese sailor who had been saved from one of the ships of the Vivaldi Expedition which had been lost about 170 years before, i.e., in 1285.

Usodimare related his adventures "in the land of Badomel" (i.e., the land of the Bur Dumel) to the Venetian Ca'da Mosto. The latter, on the 22nd March, 1455, set out on board a Portuguese 'caravel', supplied by Prince Henry the Navigator, to make further explorations in Senegambia. Ca'da Mosto records that the King of the Jolofs at this time "was called Zucholin". Ca'da Mosto disembarked at Cayor, "the palm beach of Bur Dumel". At the town of the 'Bisboror', the nephew of the king, Ca'da Mosto was entertained. The Bur Dumel was a professing Muhammedan at this time.

The Jolof kingdom is said by Ca'da Mosto to have extended east as far as the country of the Fulbe and the Tucolor. South of the Kingdom of Joal and north of the Gambia was the country of the Barbasines. Their King lived in the interior in a fortified town called Jagaon (Jago) in place of the former capital M'bissel in Sine west of Kaolack. Ca'da Mosto also disembarked on an island in the estuary of the Gambia which he called the Isle of St. Andrew after the christian name of a sailor who was buried there.

On proceeding further Ca'da Mosto was told that the country belonged to King Farisangal (Bur Senegal) a vassal of the Bur Melli.

Twenty leagues south of the Gambia (100 miles) Ca'da Mosto met the Casa Mansa, but before making this journey he records that he went 60 leagues (240 miles) "to the south" in the kingdom of the 'Battimansa'. The word 'south' however, here does not mean "directly south", but south east. The Battimansa was the King of the "Baddi-bu", between the Bintang Creek and Kantora. Almost at the same time as Ca'da Mosto's visit to the Gambia, it was visited by Diago Gomez who also mentions the 'Farisangal' (Bur Senegal). Guided by a certain Bucker (Bul-r) Gomez visited Kantora. It was believed by these travellers that the Senegal and Gambia were two months of one river enclosing the "delta of the Nile of Gana". The two rivers are so shown on a Venetian map of that period.

According to Pacheo Pereira, the chief commercial centre of Kantora at this time was called Sutuku. The whole of the right bank of the Upper River was subject to the King of Melle (Bur Melle), the left bank presumably being the Kingdom of the Batti Mansa.

The trade route from Kaukau (Gao) to Kantora at this time passed Samanda (near Segu on the Upper Niger), Commuberta (Galam), and Cereculle (Sarahulle), according to an informant of Gomez.

Gomez made a second Expedition to the Gambia and visited Ulimansa (Mansa of Wuli) and then the Battimansa on the left bank with whom he made some kind of treaty.

The King of Nomymans (Niumi), who had hitherto been hostile, was also visited, and a treaty, "sealed by drinking the red and white wine of Portugal", was made.

In 1460 Gomez returned not to Niumi but to the 'Barbasines', neighbours of the Serreos (Sereres). The Bur Gebil (Jolof chief of the Griots) had just been defeated and pursued by the Burbuk, (Jolof king) and had taken refuge at a port called Zaza (Alboreda).

The voyages made by Ca'da Mosto and by Gomez established the trade supremacy of the Portuguese on the West Coast of Africa and they were able to maintain a monopoly for more than a century. An English expedition, fitted out in 1481 was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals".

The annexation of Portugal to Spain under Philip II in 1580 caused the decline of Portuguese maritime enterprise, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was, however, ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntaur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than

two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jollofs, Mandingos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mohammedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province, comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu, Fuladu East and Fuladu Central has an area of 911 square miles and a population of 35,400. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandingos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river-ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina Eastern Niamina, Dunkunku Niamina, Fuladu West, Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,186 sq. miles and the population 53,250. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population are Jollofs and Mandingos.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,088 sq. miles and the population 48,900. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandingos but there are a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts while the Kombo Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 47,640. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandingo in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandingos, Joloffs and Tourankoes (Mahommedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Joloff and Mandingo districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy though, with modern methods of sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological statistics, 1931.

CAPE ST. MARY. STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches.)
January	73.2	45	—
February	72.9	54	0.46
March	73.7	58	—
April	75.0	59	—
May	74.2	71	0.14
June	78.1	67	2.45
July	79.6	76	8.76
August	81.7	72	4.36
September	80.0	80	16.29
October	83.1	95	1.16
November	79.1	63	—
December	74.1	42	—
Total	—	—	33.62 ins.

In the Protectorate the records of rainfall were:

South Bank Province	(Sukuta)	35.06	ins.
North Bank Province	(Kerewan)	23.31	„
MacCarthy Island Province	(Georgetown)	33.07	„
Upper River Province	(Wuli)	29.99	„

Chapter II. Government.

Protectorate System.—This system was established in 1894 and administration in the Protectorate hinges on the Chief (or Sefo) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Sefo for his town and the Sefo to the Commissioner of the Province for his district.

The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising, in the community, which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Sefo holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandingo word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remain, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Chief one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Chief's utility and prestige.

The Sefo is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a Chief. Apart from general administrative duties and supervision of his district the Sefo is the President of the Native Tribunal of his district, he exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

Local Government—In 1931 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health was constituted in place of the Board of Health for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of the Town, and is composed of representatives of the various Government Departments concerned, of six Members elected by the Town Wards and of four Members, nominated by the Governor, representing the Commercial and Shipping interests.

Meetings of the Council were held in each quarter and the advice and assistance given to Government were of great value.

Chapter III. Population.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants reside on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the Town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the Races in the Protectorate is as follows :—

Mandingo	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambarra	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows :—

	Births.	Deaths.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births Registered).
1927	269	403	317
1928	262	461	395
1929	315	502	333
1930	366	411	283
1931	422	369	227

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered, since certificates of death and burial permits are required in all cases, in some instances, births of infants to parents, in particular to illiterate parents, are not registered. This would account for the comparatively large excess of deaths over births which have been registered in previous years. The statistics indicate, however, that more births are being registered from year to year and this is undoubtedly due to the fact that parents, including the illiterates, are beginning to realize the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

Emigration and immigration.

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the commencement of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French Territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past three years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows:—1,083 in 1929, 940 in 1930 and 851 in 1931; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who :—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,

(*b*) is an idiot or insane,

(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,

(*d*) is a prostitute, or

(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount.

At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor not having become destitute or unable to support himself, departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health.

The health of the inhabitants of the Gambia is on the whole satisfactory. Complaints of the Respiratory and Digestive Systems are most prevalent: thus in 1931 there were 3,092 cases of the former, with 18 deaths, and 4,290 cases of the latter, with 13 deaths. It is noticeable that respiratory complaints occur most commonly in the relatively cold season January to April and digestive system complaints during the rains June to October.

The Gambia is entirely an agricultural Colony, containing no mines or factories, and as a result no complaints are met with which can be ascribed to these two factors. Malaria fever is the most usual tropical complaint under treatment: in 1931 there were 1,277 cases with 2 deaths.

There are one Hospital and two Dispensaries in the Protectorate, in charge of a Medical Officer, and from these centres prophylactic work is undertaken in the way of Vaccination against small-pox and the treatment and care of yaws, etc. In Bathurst there is an European and African General Hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and a Home for Infirm. These are all in the charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and also in the Clinics. In addition there is a Public Health Department which attends to drainage and sanitary organization.

During 1931 there was no outbreak of serious illness such as yellow fever, plague, small-pox. The work at the Victoria Hospital remained much the same in volume: the general public showed an increasing appreciation of the special nature of the help obtainable at the Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics.

Two modern Wards were constructed at the Victoria Hospital to replace two which were dilapidated and out-of-date. These new Wards are light, airy and cheerful and consequently have a beneficial effect on those who occupy them.

Very welcome improvements in the drainage of streets were started. Sand filling of certain low areas and deep depressions was undertaken as part of the constant warfare against insect pests. The treatment of such areas and depressions with chemicals is expensive whereas once filled with sand no further expense is entailed.

The Health Department continued operations against mosquito breeding—this work is both difficult and expensive owing to the existence of large numbers of crab holes which provide ideal hatching-out places for mosquitoes.

Chapter V. Housing

There are no slums in Bathurst and the houses and compounds are all well kept. There is some overcrowding at times during the "Trade Season" but not of a serious nature. Amelioration of living conditions is provided for by moving people when possible from low lying to reclaimed areas. All houses and compounds are periodically inspected by the Public Health Authorities and the Sanitary Laws are rigidly enforced. Houses are constructed of different kinds of material; for instance, some are of wattle and daub, others of brick; others again are of concrete blocks, and the most usual roofing is of corrugated iron.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. These houses are well suited to local conditions. There is no overcrowding since ample space is available for expansion. The houses and villages generally are very well kept and sanitation is satisfactory. Periodical inspections of villages are made by the Commissioners and officers of the Medical Staff.

In the Protectorate the houses are almost invariably built and owned by the occupants and the same applies, though to a less extent, in Bathurst.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	47,636	20,509
South Bank Province	48,888	21,194
MacCarthy Island Province ...	53,254	32,540
Upper River Province	35,372	18,113
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst) ...	14,370	3,177

Chapter VI. Production.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation". In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of foodstuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guineacorn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Cotton is grown on a fairly extensive scale in some Provinces, particularly the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of coloured cloth.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows :—

Year	Tons	Value £
1927	65,107	916,191
1928	74,442	1,092,790
1929	56,355	765,564
1930	74,761	867,634
1931	66,811	506,125

A small export trade is done in Palm Kernels, Hides and Wax. In 1931 the exports of these commodities were :—

		£
Palm Kernel	828 tons value	7,444
Hides	14,253 lbs do	1,953
Wax	11,604 lbs do	344.

There is no organized animal industry in the Gambia although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the River and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1931 some 6,000 head of cattle are reported to have died in the Gambia of Rinderpest and Pleuro-pneumonia, but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind

from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the Gambia are practically all Fulas or Jolas in the South Bank Province.

In addition to cattle there are a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs which are reared mainly for local consumption.

There are no minerals of commercial value in the Colony nor are there any important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	863,376	1,010,686	597,161	529,985	250,311
Specie	93,365	224,977	20,691	12,775	2,302
Total ...	956,741	1,235,663	617,852	542,760	252,613

The following table shows the principal items of Imports from the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the year 1931.

Articles.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	France.	United States of America.	Other Countries	Total.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	4,513	...	336	...	851	...	5,700
Bags & Sacks No. ...	1,710	859	225	...	712	100,904	3,506
Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ...	654	...	..	...	634	7,416 galls.	1,288
Biscuits, Bread and Cakes ...	622	..	1,727	...	148	1,539 cwt.	2,497
Boots, Shoes and Slippers	1,219	45	348	...	615	12,673 pairs	2,182
Cement ...	1,077	...	8	...	73	439 tons	1,158
Cotton Piece Goods ..	21,717	5	901	...	6,337	1,354,373 sq.yds.	28,960
Coal	4,485	...	602	...	...	2,052 tons	5,087
Cotton Manufacture (other)	1,879	...	751	...	1,045	...	3,675
Cotton Yarn ...	780	...	4,340	...	654	82,965 lbs.	5,774
Flour Wheaten	175	..	1,473	3,956	..	9,597 cwt.	5,604
Hats and Caps	824	...	281	...	337	...	1,442
Kola-Nuts ...	...	18,892	...	...	68	11,965 cwt.	18,960
Lumber ...	2,095	777	493	77	414	235,278 sup.ft.	3,856
Medicines and Drugs ...	1,514	..	184	91	11	...	1,800
Metal all kinds	4,975	...	572	...	730	...	6,277
Motor Cars and Lorries No.	2,001	...	...	542	521	21	3,064
Oils, Edible ...	633	...	889	...	3,527	41,601 galls.	5,049
Oils, not Edible	723	1,071	369	8,828	1,398	211,037 galls.	12,389
Rice	1,211	12,171	27,412	...	8,642	105,956 cwt.	49,436
Salt	19	..	..	...	3,944	1,704 tons	3,963
Soap ...	57	...	2,553	...	12	2,618 cwt.	2,622
Spirits, potable	1,381	...	245	...	114	2,190 galls.	1,740
Sugar	1,004	...	6,866	38	440	9,840 cwt.	8,348
Tea	4,500	...	262	...	1495	79,313 lbs.	6,257
Tobacco ...	5,778	...	110	5,854	93	163,071 lbs.	11,835
Wines... ...	201	...	2,725	...	276	30,030 galls.	3,202

The percentages of Imports from all Countries, exclusive of Specie, were as follows :—

Country.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	38.76	37.99	34.42	34.39	37.73
British Possessions ...	12.95	10.23	10.69	11.11	14.45
Totals—British Empire	51.71	48.22	45.11	45.50	52.18
Denmark	01.32	01.89	—	—	—
France	30.65	34.08	39.65	29.75	24.52
Germany	05.58	05.19	02.63	03.68	3.67
Holland	01.35	02.04	—	01.76	1.78
U. S. A.	05.38	05.60	06.63	06.87	8.35
Other Countries ...	04.01	02.98	05.98	12.44	9.50

The following table shows the comparative prices per unit of the principal items of Imports for the last five years :—

Article.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	3 14. 9½	3 6. 7½	3 10. 1¾	2 14. 7½	2 12. 9
Coal per ton	2 18. 6	2 9. 0	2 9. 10	2 9. 7	2 9. 1½
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yds.	0 0. 7	0 0. 7¼	0 0. 5¾	0 0. 6½	0 0. 5
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	1 0. 9	0 18. 7	0 16. 7¼	0 14. 11½	0 11. 11
Kola Nuts per cwt.	4 1. 8	5 6. 0	4 2. 1	3 14. 6	1 11. 8
Oils Edible per gall.	0 3. 11½	0 3. 8	0 3. 8	0 2. 10¾	0 2. 5
Rice per cwt.	0 14. 5	0 13. 8½	0 13. 6¼	0 12. 8	0 9. 3¾
Salt per ton	1 12. 0	1 15. 9	1 6. 10½	1 9. 2	2 6. 6
Sugar per cwt.	1 5. 11	0 19. 7	0 19. 5¼	0 17. 1¼	0 17. 0
Tea per lb.	0 2. 1¾	0 2. 2¾	0 2. 3¾	0 2. 1	0 1. 6¾

Exports.

The Exports for the last five years including Specie were as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	999,000	1,156,009	840,929	898,807	527,111
Specie	887	22,400	3,831	7,836	2,761
Total ...	999,887	1,178,409	844,760	906,643	529,872

The following table shows the principal items of Exports to the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the year 1931.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides.		Palm Kernels.	
	Tons.	Value.	No.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	1,595	12,376	3,405	514	396	4,187
British Possessions	7	58	—	—	—	—
France	39,476	298,543	9,190	1,252	—	—
Germany ...	13,746	101,512	1,658	187	432	3,257
Holland	10,291	80,166	—	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	1,696	13,470	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	66,811	506,125	14,253	1,953	828	7,444

The percentages of Exports to all Countries exclusive of Specie were as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	08.20	33.80	15.18	19.35	03.83
British Possessions ...	00.47	00.57	03.64	01.96	00.82
Totals British Empire ...	08.67	34.37	18.82	21.31	04.65
Denmark	01.50	06.38	06.83	04.29	—
France	42.10	30.92	33.03	39.95	56.90
French W. A. Possessions	01.06	—	—	—	—
Germany	19.72	20.60	28.01	17.82	19.91
Holland	20.70	05.81	10.26	16.17	15.21
Other Countries ...	06.25	01.92	03.05	00.46	03.33

The following table shows the comparative prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	13. 19. 7	14. 12. 4	13. 10. 5	11. 12. 1	7. 11. 6
Hides per lb.	0. 0. 6¼	0. 0. 10¼	0. 0. 7½	0. 0. 4¼	0. 0. 2¾
Palm Kernels per ton	16. 0. 2¼	15. 12. 0	13. 18. 5½	10. 17. 3	8. 19. 9½

Shipping.

The percentages of Shipping of various Nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	%	%	%	%	%
British	63.9	64.1	67.9	62.0	55.4
French	11.4	12.4	13.1	12.4	19.0
Dutch	6.0	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.3
German	4.9	4.3	5.1	5.7	3.3
Norwegian	3.7	2.8	3.3	5.6	—
American	3.6	4.8	4.9	5.5	4.8
Italian	2.5	3.9	—	—	1.8
Swedish	—	—	1.2	3.0	7.2
Danish	—	—	—	—	2.9
Other Countries	4.0	4.1	4.1	2.8	4.3

Chapter VIII. Wages and Cost of Living.

Generally speaking labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives, from French Territory, enter Bathurst to obtain employment; whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

Rates of pay.

The rate of pay for artisans such as Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Fitters, Masons and Painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day ($8\frac{1}{2}$ hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) those on a monthly wage,

(*b*) those on a daily wage, and

(*c*) farm labourers.

(*a*) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in some cases, a monthly issue of 45 lbs of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (*e. g.* sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/6 to 2/- a day and in some instances are provided with accommodation. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

(*b*) Daily wage labourers receive from 9d to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work, but the wage in Bathurst is seldom less than 1/- a day. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(*c*) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crop is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local native each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subject referred to above.

Cost of living.

In the Protectorate "corn" is the staple diet of the labouring class, whilst a considerable amount of rice, bread and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer.

The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows: —

Rice or corn	3*d*
Bread	1*d*
Fish	1*d*
Oil	1*d*
Sugar	½*d*
Condiments	½*d*
TOTAL	7*d*

Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1d.

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/- a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for himself is rather less than that in Bathurst.

The prices of foodstuffs are generaly lower than those obtaining before the war. The following table gives some examples :—

	1931	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	25/-	33/-
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/-	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	11/6	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/6	4/-
Sugar per lb.	3*d*	5½*d*.

Cost of living. European Government Officials.

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst : —

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Firewood	9
Electric Light	10
Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, egg, etc.)	40
Provisions & Wines	125
Tobacco	10
Widows and Orphans Pension contribution	24
Miscellaneous Expenditure including equipment	35
Total	£335

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

Chapter IX. Education and Welfare Institutions.

Education in the Gambia is controlled by the Board of Education of which the Governor is the President. The Members of the Board include all the members of the Legislative Council, the Superintendent of Education and such other members, not exceeding six in number, as may be nominated by the Governor. The nominated members hold office for a period of not more than three years and they include representatives of the three Missions which operate in the Gambia, namely, the Wesleyan Methodist, the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Missions. The powers of the Board are defined in the Education Ordinance (No. 14 of 1903). Briefly, the Board is empowered to dispose annually of such sum as the Legislative Council has granted for the promotion of Education and to make regulations respecting grants-in-aid to assisted schools, the conduct of schools generally, the award of scholarships and other matters connected with the Education Ordinance. Such Regulations, after approval by the Governor-in-Council, come into operation as from the date on which they appear in the Gazette, but are subject to disallowance by His Majesty.

The Head of the Education Department is the Superintendent of Education who, in addition to administering the Department, exercises a general supervision over all the schools and training institutions in the Gambia.

Elemetary, Secondary and Vocational education are provided by the Government. There is no University education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which, in 1931, had a total of 1,853 pupils on the registers (1,233 boys and 620 girls) and an average attendance of 1,150. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard. Five of them are maintained by Missions (Anglican one, Roman Catholic two and Wesleyan two) and the Government maintains a Mohammedan School at which Arabic is taught in addition to the English subjects.

There are four Secondary Schools in Bathurst, two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Missions. The total numbers on the register in 1931 were 87 boys and 92 girls with average attendances of 72 and 75 respectively. Scholarships to these Secondary Schools are given each year by the Government.

A Manual Training Centre is maintained by Government, and boys from all the Bathurst schools attend for instruction in carpentry.

As regards Vocational Training, a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst in 1930, under the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions, at which some fifty Bathurst elementary school teachers have completed a two years' course of instruction. There are also a number of students training for the teaching profession. The Government provides a number of scholarships to the Training School.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in MacCarthy Island Province, at which there are sixty boys, mostly the sons or relatives of chiefs. There is also a small vernacular school with 27 pupils at Bakau, near Bathurst, and the Wesleyan Mission have opened three vernacular schools in Kombo.

The Wesleyan Mission also maintain an elementary school at Georgetown at which 22 boys and 25 girls attended in 1931 with an average daily attendance of 24.

During 1931 the Superintendent of Education supervised the training of teachers in conjunction with the Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Missions. Fifty-two elementary school teachers completed the second year and four new teachers-in-training commenced the first year of the course. The course follows the London University training syllabus, but is adapted where necessary to the local needs of the teachers. It has been given a practical bias in all subjects, among which, in addition to the usual teacher training subjects, are included physical training and games, agriculture, nature study and manual training for men and sewing for women.

Manual training was continued and very good results were achieved. The teachers in training attended the centre, with a view to their being able, at a later date, to teach Manual Training in their own schools; many of them attained a high standard of proficiency.

In the Protectorate the four vernacular schools in the Kombo were inspected by the Superintendent of Education and the headmasters were advised and assisted with their work. In addition to vernacular work in reading, writing and arithmetic, gardening and carpentry were also taught to the boys, and sewing classes were given once a week to the girls of the village in which the schools are situated.

Visits were paid to the Armitage School at Georgetown several times during the year. The system of keeping the registers and fees registers at the school was revised and in consultation with the Auditor new and improved registers were started. A ledger was also opened showing the articles made in the Bathurst Manual Training Centre, together with particulars regarding their cost and sales.

Meetings with the school Managers were held by the Superintendent of Education and the curriculum of the elementary schools in Arithmetic, History, English and Geography was amended with a view to the general revision of the curriculum of the schools at a later date.

Rules were drawn up in conjunction with the Managers of the schools regarding such subjects as the absence of teachers from school, medical certificates for teachers on the sick list, punishments, and transfer certificates.

The following examinations were held during the year :— London Matriculation, Cambridge School Certificate, Cambridge Local Preliminary, Clerical Services, Elementary Schools Annual Examination.

A short History of the Gambia written by the Superintendent of Education was published for the Department by the Government Press and copies were supplied on sale to all the schools.

Welfare Institutions etc.

Free medical treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment etc. in the Colony.

Recreation etc.

In Bathurst Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. Organized games are conducted by the schools who are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and Cricket leagues have been formed by the native residents of Bathurst and Government has provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once in every week by the Police Band on MacCarthy Square and also in front of Government House, when the gardens are thrown open to the public. These concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter X. Communications And Transport.

External :—

For mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster and Coy. Ltd. There is a monthly service but other-wise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every six weeks.

Internal :—

River Transport :—

As stated in Chapter 1 the Gambia River is navigable for ocean-going vessels as far as Kuntaur (150 miles from Bathurst) and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina (292 miles).

During the trading season, ground-nuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters and also in cutters and schooners, though the latter have now been almost entirely replaced by steam craft.

Marine Department :—

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons) weekly from November to May and fortnightly during the remaining months of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows :—

	1930.	1931.
Passengers carried	21,119	11,980
Cargo (tons)	2,696	2,409
Revenue from passenger traffic ...	£4,705	£4,232
Revenue from freight	£4,685	£3,712

The decline in 1931 was due to the trade depression.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for Harbour services at Bathurst.

Roads:—

There are four trunk roads:

No. 1 :— Bathurst—Sukuta—Brikama—Kafuta—N. Demban—Bwiam—Brumen Ferry. (87 miles).

No. 2 :— Barra—Berrending—Bantanding—Dasalami—Banni Njakunda—Illiassa. (62 miles).

No. 3 :— Illiassa—Katchang Ferry—Konkoba—Kwinella—Jatabba—Brumen Ferry—(22½ miles) with branch eastwards at Jatabba to Sandenu and the French boundary (2½ miles)

No. 4 :—Bantanding (on Road 2) to the French boundary ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

In addition there is a Secondary road running from Illiassa via Ballanghar, Bansang Ferry, Basse to Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate. The total mileages of Secondary roads in each Province are approximately as follows :—

North Bank Province	116 miles
South Bank Province	95 miles
MacCarthy Island Province	280 miles
Upper River Province	200 miles.

Ferries:—

Passenger and vehicular ferries have been installed, and are maintained, by Government in connexion with the road system at the following points :—

Kerewan	(Road No. 2)
Katchang—Konkoba	(Road No. 3)
Brumen (connecting Roads Nos. 1 & 3)	
Bansang Basse	continuation of Road No. 2

There is also a small passenger ferry at Bali in the Jawarra Creek.

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1931.

Postal Service :—

Mails are conveyed by the Government river steamers. The General Post Office is in Bathurst and there are District Post Offices at Kuntaur, Georgetown, Basse and Fattoto.

During 1931 the number of letters and other Postal matter, exclusive of parcels, amounted to 182,483 (including 11,008 registered articles) as compared with 271,650 (including 14,500 registered articles) in 1930. Some use was made of the air mail service from Dakar by which means 818 letters were despatched.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 4,227 (including 271 insured packets) as against 6,093 (including 488 insured packets) in 1930.

Statistics of the Money and Postal Order traffic are as follows :—

	1930 £	1931 £
Money Orders issued and paid, value	34,736	27,430
Revenue derived from Money Orders	233	158
Postal Orders issued & paid	7,674	2,910
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	60	47

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1931 was £1,514 as compared with £2,196 in 1930.

Telephone Service (Bathurst):—

The service was satisfactorily maintained. The total number of subscribers was 64 and the service produced a revenue of £139 as against £217 in 1930.

Wireless Service:—

There are four Wireless stations situated at Bathurst, Kuntaur, Georgetown and Basse, the radius of the three last-named being about 250 miles. In 1931 a new 2 Kilowatt valve transmitter was installed at the Bathurst Station giving a range of over 1,000 miles. Improvements were also effected during the year in the apparatus at the other stations. The revenue derived from this service in 1931 was £428 and £511 in 1930.

There is no telegraph system in the Gambia.

Chapter XI. Banking, Currency, Weights & Measures.

Bank.

The only Bank in this Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Post Office Savings Bank, the rate of interest being 2½% p.a.

Currency.

The currency is British West African alloy and nickel-bronze coins of denominations 2/–, 1/–, 6d, 3d, 1d, & ½d: and British West African Currency Notes of 20/– & 10/– denominations (French five-franc pieces which were formerly in circulation were demonetised in 1922).

Stocks of Currency are held on behalf of the West African Currency Board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required, against payment in London.

The value of the Notes in circulation on the 31st December 1931 was £211,932 as compared with £207,932 on the 31st December 1930 whilst Alloy Coins to the value of £210,149 were in circulation at the end of 1931 as against £224,699 at the end of the previous year.

Weights and Measures.

Standard Weights and Measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial Measures of Capacity, Length & Surface) are prescribed by the Weights & Measures Ordinance of 1902 and are kept by Government.

The Commissioner of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of all public works in the Colony and Protectorate, for which provision is made in the annual Estimates, and for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department.

The Engineering staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen and two African Foremen of Works; the Accounts and Stores staff consists of two Accountants and ten African Clerks.

In addition to the above-mentioned works the Department operates the Electric Light and Power Services, comprising some 35 miles of distribution mains, the Bathurst Waterworks, the Fire Protection Plant and the Government Motor Transport Service.

Roads, streets and tram-lines in Bathurst are maintained by the Department as is also the Government Wharf.

The main road from Bathurst through St. Mary's Island to Kombo St. Mary, together with certain trunk roads in the Protectorate serving the creeks and the lower river, are also maintained by the Department.

Activities during 1931.

(*a*) Maintenance (Expenditure £15,796.)

Bathurst Water Supply.

The question of the condition of the mains and the improvement of the supply generally was the subject of a special report by Mr. Howard Humphreys, Consulting Hydraulic Engineer, who visited the Colony in February and March. A scheme for the renewal of the supply-mains was prepared and application was made for financial assistance from the Colonial Development Fund to enable the scheme to be undertaken.

The total number of gallons pumped during 1931 amounted to 43,034,000 gallons.

The rates charged are as follows:

General Water Rate	1½ per cent of rateable value
Water Supply Rate for taps in yards	£2 per annum
Water Supply to vessels	1/4 per 100 gallons
Meter Rate	1/6 per 1,000 gallons.

Revenue.

Water Rates (1½ per cent Rateable value) ...	£784. 0. 0.
Supply Rate (£2 per annum)	164. 0. 0.
Watering Vessels—83,330 galls. at 1/4 per 100 gallons	56. 0. 0.
Total	£1,004. 0. 0.

In addition, the value of the water supplied to Government Departments amounted to £2,681.

Expenditure.

Excluding the emoluments of the permanent staff the expenditure during 1931 on the maintenance of the water supply amounted to £1,991.

Electric Light Supply, Bathurst.

During the year a total of 312,817 units was generated as compared with the 279,863 units during the previous year.

A number of new installations and extensions were carried out, the chief being the completion of the extension to buildings and quarters at Cape St. Mary and the supply of Power for the machinery in the new Platers' Shop at the Marine Department Workshops representing a total of 31 K.W. extra load.

The earnings from the supply of Electrical energy during the year amounted to £6,981, whilst the cost of maintenance (exclusive of permanent staff) was £2,444.

The rates charged are :—Lighting, 9*d* per unit (minimum charge 10/- per month). Domestic, 3*d* per unit (minimum charge 2/6 per month). Power, 6*d* per unit and a contract rate fixed by agreement.

Free services include the lighting of streets, the Hospital, Government Wharf, Government offices and the Wireless Station.

Ice Factory.

Approximately 88½ tons of ice were manufactured in the Government Ice Factory during 1931 and of this amount nearly 81 tons were retailed to the public at the price of 1*d* a lb. Cash sales realized £622, whilst the value of the ice supplied to Victoria Hospital and the Health Department was £129. The total cost to Government of producing the ice was £427.

General.

The Department also undertook the usual maintenance and repairs of public buildings, roads, and Bathurst Wharf. The Motor Transport Service was satisfactorily maintained.

(b) Construction etc. (Expenditure £19,204.)

The principal works carried out during the year included :—

Victoria Hospital.

A new Ward and Store were built at a cost of £1,100. The Ward is of cement-block work and is situated on the sight of an old ward. Accommodation for 24 patients is provided.

Public Health Lines.

Two further blocks of 14 rooms, each with a verandah back and front, were built for the Board of Health at a cost of £1,750.

Police Lines.

Work was completed on a block consisting of 10 rooms, with a verandah on one side, to enable the Band personnel to be housed in Barracks.

Platers' Shop, Marine Department.

A temporary shelter was erected for the new radial-drilling, punching and plate-bending machinery.

Albert Market, Bathurst.

A cooling chamber was provided and the refrigerating plant erected.

Permanent Headquarters for Commissioner at Kerewan, North Bank Province.

A two-storey building in concrete blackwork was erected, the upper storey forming the living quarters, consisting of dining room, two bedrooms, kiosk, front and back verandahs, and the usual offices. Storage accommodation was provided in the lower storey, where there is also a garage. The ground floor is of concrete, and the first floor is of timber. The roof is covered with boarding and asbestos tiles, and ceilings are panelled in Tentest sheets. A large tank was provided for the storage of rain water.

Royal West African Frontier Force Barracks, Cape St. Mary.

A Spare Kit Store was built of cement blocks and a concrete block laundry building and a Small Arms Magazine were also erected. Fixed baths, with water supply, were installed in the British Non-Commissioned Officers' quarters.

Office Accommodation.

Several rooms in the Secretariat compound were converted into offices for the Land and Audit Departments and the top storey of the Northern wing into transit quarters.

Roads in Bathurst.

The principal streets dealt with during the year were :—

Clifton Road—metalled and treated with Spraymex.

Box Bar—embankment across the swamp made into a roadway.

Lasso Wharf—Victoria Embankment, ballasted for vehicular traffic.

Allen Street—surfaced with laterite.

Spalding Street—surfaced with laterite.

Telegraph Road—ballasted.

Wellington Street—leading to the Barra Ferry Jetty surfaced with laterite.

Protectorate Roads (Consolidation.)

Trunk Road No. 2.

Work proceeded according to programme on the section Barra-Illiassa. All the six causeways between Barra and Bantanding and the French Border were widened and surfaced with laterite; the 2¼ mile causeway between Dasalami and the Suarrakunda Creek opposite Kerewan was raised and widened throughout its length and stone was collected for surfacing. The Ba Bolong Causeway, 1½ miles in length, was also improved.

Trunk Road No. 3.

From Illiassa to Katchang Tenda the washouts which occurred during the rains were repaired or the road diverted. On the section Konkoba to the French Border *via* Sandemu, laterite stone was collected and work was commenced on all the ten short causeways when labour became available in December.

Reclamation Lasso Wharf Area, Bathurst.

Approximately £3,000 was expended on reclamation, which work was carried on partly with the object of relieving local unemployment. Mud filling in the Lasso Wharf Area was commenced in February when ninety-two men, selected in turn by the Ward Heads, were employed weekly. Some sand filling was also carried on. Sand was dumped from lorries in the Box Bar Area for the benefit of residents who quickly removed it to fill their yards and compounds. A leading Hopper was erected on the North foreshore for the rapid filling of lorries employed on this work.

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1895. It is presided over by a Cadi. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. In practice, its work is mainly confined to divorce and dowry among the Mohammedans. The proceedings are conducted in Mandingo or Jolloff but a summarised record is made in Arabic. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not assigned to the Supreme Court and he may also hear and determine summarily thefts and cognate offences where the value of the property does not exceed £20 and the accused will be adequately punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months. Assaults and wounding and infliction of bodily harm, not amounting to felony, may also be dealt with summarily and a like imprisonment imposed. A further extension of summary jurisdiction of the Police Magistrate is given by Imperial Acts Adoption Ordinance 1931 (No. 2 of 1931) which adopted *inter alia* the Criminal Justice Act 1925.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. Several Europeans and Africans, both Christians and Mohammedans, are on the list of Justices of the Peace. Their jurisdiction with respect to the thefts and cognate offences mentioned above is limited to cases where the value of the property does not exceed £5 and they have no jurisdiction in cases of aggravated assaults.

The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies by way of case stated from the Police Court to the Supreme Court.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction, and breach of promise of marriage. The court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners. The procedure is summary and the general object of the court is the collection of small debts speedily and cheaply. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England. It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from the subordinate courts, the Judge reviews, under the Summary Review Ordinance, all criminal cases tried by these courts in the Colony and the Protectorate. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate if necessity arises.

The Colonial Courts i.e. the Supreme Court, the Police Court, the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court have jurisdiction in the Protectorate as well as in the Colony. *The Protectorate Courts* properly so called are the Native Tribunals established in each district by the Protectorate Ordinance. Such Tribunals may be constituted by the Commissioner (the political officer) sitting alone or with native members, in which case the tribunal may try summarily all but the more serious criminal offences and may impose imprisonment up to two years. When constituted by native members only, the powers of punishment and the jurisdiction are restricted and their decisions are subject to review and rehearing if necessary by the Commissioner. The civil jurisdiction of these tribunals is that of the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court at Bathurst, except that when the Commissioner sits the limit of amount of claim is extended to £200. In practice this jurisdiction is never used; all cases of value are brought in the Supreme Court. No lawyers can appear before a native tribunal without the special leave of the Judge of the Supreme Court or the Commissioner of the Province. An appeal lies in all cases from a tribunal when presided over by the Commissioner to the Supreme Court.

Coroner's Court.

A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioner.

Staff.

There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi and approximately two hundred members of native tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees.

Juvenile Offenders.

In Bathurst the Police Magistrate or the Justices of the Peace are empowered to hold a Juvenile Court. The occasions are rare. The imposition of imprisonment is avoided as far as possible and, when imposed, special prison arrangements are made.

Fines and Probation.

Time is practically always given for the payment of fines. There is no regular probation system with paid probation officers, but since the Imperial Acts Adoption Ordinance came into force, early in 1931, it has been found possible to apply the principles of the Probation of Offenders Act 1907 to the work of the Bathurst Police Court. In the Protectorate, native law and custom operate in the treatment of offenders. Most offences are punished by small fines. Corporal punishment is practically never imposed by any court, Colonial or Protectorate. With regard to the Protectorate, all sentences of more than 14 days imprisonment must be served in the Bathurst Gaol.

Statistics for the year 1931.

Criminal.

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	12	1 acquittal	—	11
Police Court ...	681	114	10	557
Protectorate Courts :—				
North Bank Province ...	202	11	Nil	191
South Bank Province ...	445	31	5	409
MacCarthy Is. Province	427	40	6	381
Upper River Province ...	211	18	Nil	193

Civil.

Supreme Court	...	...	36 cases
Mohammedan Court	...	...	100 cases
Court of Requests	...	...	1,008 cases

POLICE.

The Police Force is an armed body under the charge of the Commissioner of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent of Police and the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of an Inspector of Police, four Sub-Inspectors and 131 other ranks, including 26 Band personnel.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of St. Mary, the Force is also responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of Weights and Measures, traffic control, fire-fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

Maintenance of Law and Order.
1931 Statistics.

Court cases dealt with	...	...	625
Prosecutions conducted	...	...	540
Convictions obtained	...	...	501
Inquest summonses served	...	...	19
Warrants executed	...	...	16
Summonses and Subpoenas served		...	395

Issue of Licences, 1931.

Motor Vehicle	291
Dog	154
Firearms	249
Domestic Servant	304
Motor Driver	288
Liquor	16
Entertainment	24

Traffic Control.

Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Department.

This Department, which was organized in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and Measures, are dealt with in Chapter XI.

Relations with the Public.

Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.

Being an armed force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabas of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instruction :—

Law and general police duties.
Fire drill.
Physical training.
Musketry.

Health.

The health of the Force during 1931 was good.

Band.

The public concerts given twice weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

PRISON.

In the Gambia there is only one prison which is situated on St. Mary's Island in a good position. The buildings, which were formerly used as an isolation hospital, were converted into a prison in 1920. They are of solid construction, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three Association Wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out-houses. The Warders are accommodated close to the Prison.

Staff.

The staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Commissioner of Police), an African Chief Warder and nineteen other African warders.

Health.

The Prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1931 was good, the daily average number of sick being 1.22, or 1.57 per cent of the average daily number in the prison.

Visiting Committee.

The Prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present Committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the senior African Unofficial Member of Legislative Council and the Land Officer. In addition, all the Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the Prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.

On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to Prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.

Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of Prisoners.

In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking, etc., the prisoners are also employed on minor public works under the supervision of Warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1931, 7,422 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.

The discipline during 1931 was good, only seven offences being recorded. Seven prisoners escaped and of these three prisoners are still at large.

Admissions and Discharges.

During the year 1931 the admissions totalled 698 and the discharges 628. The average daily number of prisoners was 77.5.

Chapter XIV. Legislation.

During 1931 the following Legislation was enacted:—

Ordinances:—

1. The European Officers' Pension (Amendment) Ordinance.
2. The Imperial Acts Adoption Ordinance.
3. The Intestate Estates (Amendment) Ordinance.
4. The Urban District and Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance.
5. The Cinematograph Ordinance.
6. The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
7. The Public Officers' Pension (Amendment) Ordinance.
8. The Registration and Licensing of Domestic Servants (Amendment) Ordinance.
9. The Town of Bathurst (Amendment) Ordinance.
10. The Protectorate (Amendment) Ordinance.
11. The Public Holidays (Amendment) Ordinance.
12. The Stamp Ordinance.
13. The Appropriation Ordinance.
14. The Passports (Amendment) Ordinance.
15. The Interpretation (Amendment) Ordinance.
16. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance.

The only Ordinances which call for any comment are :—

(1) The Stamp Ordinance, which imposed Stamp duties on various instruments and which follows the lines of Stamp Ordinances in force elsewhere. Hitherto there have been no stamp duties in the Colony.

(2) The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance providing for the levying of export duty on all goods etc., exported from the Colony irrespective of whether those goods are or are not the produce or manufactures of the Colony.

The subsidiary legislation was as follows:—

Rules and Regulations:—

1. The Immigration Restriction Regulations.
2. The Education (Amendment) Rules.
3. The Police Regulations.
4. The European Officers' Pensions Regulations.
5. The Public Officers' Pensions Regulations.
6. The Amending Rules of the Supreme Court.
7. The European Officers' Pensions (No. 2) Regulations.
8. The Postal Regulations.
9. The Bathurst Market Regulations.

10. The Weights and Measures Regulations.
11. The Quarantine Regulations.
12. The Public Health Regulations.
13. The Electric Light Regulations.
14. The Public Health (No. 2) Regulations
15. The Town of Bathurst (Building) Regulations.

Orders :—

No. 1, made under section 12 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance 1924 exempting wireless receiving sets and wireless component parts other than electric batteries from import duty.

Nos. 6 and 12, made under section 12 of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance 1928 declaring Di-hydro-morphinone and its salts and any preparation, admixture etc. containing any proportion of it and also the salts of Di-hydro-codeinone to be dangerous drugs.

No. 8, made under section 12 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance 1924 imposing import duties on various imported goods etc. and amending and otherwise altering the existing rates of duty on imported goods.

No. 9, made under section 39 of the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance 1916, prohibiting the importation of "Eley 'Rocket' Shotgun Cartridges".

No. 13, made under section 12 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1924 reducing the export duty on groundnuts from £1 to 10/- per ton.

No. 14, made under section 39 of the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance 1916, allowing the importation of left-hand drive motor vehicles.

No. 15, made under section 12 of the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1924, exempting "Books, stationery and apparatus generally for the use of educational establishments, and articles required for outdoor games intended exclusively for the use of such establishments" from import duty.

Bye Laws :— Nos. 1 & 2 of 1931, made by the Navigation and Pilotage Board.

There is no legislation in the Gambia dealing with factories, compensation for accidents or provision for sickness, old age etc.

Chapter XV. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years were :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1922	£243,603	£252,419
1923	229,688	211,317
1924	208,613	203,635
1925	189,086	271,836
1926	214,181	213,643
1927	252,419	277,625
1928	255,385	250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487

Public Debt.

The only Debt outstanding is the small balance of the Loan to the Colony from the West African Currency Board in connexion with the demonetization of the French five-franc pieces. Of the loan of £187,893 which was made in 1922, £182,184 has now been repaid.

Assets.

(*a*)	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December 1931 ...	£64,908
(*b*)	Reserve Fund	51,840
(*c*)	Steamer Depreciation Fund	10,023
		£126,771
	Outstanding Currency Board Loan and Interest	5,893
	Total Assets ...	£120,878

Taxation.

The main sources of Revenue from Taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows :—

	1931.	1930.	1929.	1928.	1927.
Customs Import Duties.					
Ad-Valorem :—	£7,522	£12,509	£14,510	£33,706	£26,797
Specific :—					
Kola Nuts	22,319	24,471	24,973	31,210	44,795
Kerosene & Petroleum	2,678	4,291	3,469	4,667	3,158
Soap ...	451	712	646	1,253	890
Spirits ...	2,587	4,911	4,856	6,990	5,582
Tobacco ...	9,954	11,492	12,264	12,846	17,347
Wines ...	2,080	2,840	2,776	4,447	3,763
Other Articles	7,503	3,553	4,332	7,621	5,414
Parcel Post	572	839	837	819	799
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-Nuts	66,321	74,309	55,733	73,809	64,342
Total Customs Duties.	£121,987	£139,927	£124,396	£177,368	£172,887
Port Dues	2,959	4,042	4,355	5,049	4,668
Yard Tax	10,179	11,073	11,665	7,065	7,639

Trade Licences	2,360	3,413	3,662	4,664	4,727
Other Licences Liquor & Motor Car etc.	1,911	2,594	2,454	2,758	2,228
TOTAL	£139,396	£161,049	£146,532	£196,903	£192,149

Customs Tariff.

During the year a New Tariff Ordinance was enacted imposing duties on certain articles, which were formerly duty-free, and increasing the rates on certain other articles. The present Tariff levies an *Ad-Valorem* duty of 10 per cent on all articles not otherwise exempt or subject to a specific rate of duty, with the exception that an *Ad-valorem* duty of 2½ per cent is levied on Aircraft and accessories and on manufactured Cotton Goods of 15 per cent.

The principal articles on which a Specific duty is levied at the rates shewn against them, are as follows :—

Bags and sacks (empty) 5/- per 100; Beads (other than Coral) 6*d* per gross; Beers 1/- per Imperial Gallon; Candles 6/- per 100 lbs; Cement 8*d* per 400 lbs; Corrugated iron sheets £1. 12. 0 per ton; Kola nuts 4*d* per lb; Lime 2/- per ton; Motor Cars £5 each; Motor Cycles £1 each; Bicycles 10/- each; Matches 2/- per gross; Oils, Kerosene 4*d* per Imperial Gallon; Motor Spirit 4*d* per Imperial Gallon; Paints and Colours 3/- per 100 lbs; Rice 2/- per Cwt; Salt 1/- per Cwt; Soap, Toilet 4/- per 100 lbs; Soap (other than Toilet) 4/- per Cwt; Potable Spirits 25/- per Imperial Gallon; Perfumed Spirit 10/- per Imperial Gallon; Twine 16/- per Cwt; Tobacco, Unmanufactured 1/- per lb; Cigars 5/- per lb; Cigarettes 1/- per 100; Cigarettes of unusual size 4/- per lb; Other manufactured tobacco and snuff 4/- per lb; Wines, sparkling 5/- per Imperial Gallon, still, in bulk in packages of not less than 20 Imperial Gallons 1/6 per Gallon, in bottles or other packages less than 20 Imperial Gallons 3/- per Gallon; Wood and Timber, undressed £1 per 1,000 sup. ft., dressed £1:1:0 per 1,000 sup. ft.

Excise and Stamp duties.

There are no Excise Duties.

Up to the end of 1931 no Stamp Duties have been imposed but under the Stamp Ordinance, No. 12 of 1931, which came into operation on the 14th January 1932, provision is made for charging Stamp Duties in respect of certain instruments, the principal items being :—

Admission as a Barrister, Solicitor or Notary Public	£10	0	0
Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement not otherwise charged	0	0	6
Award—Over £10 to £50 ...	0	0	6
„ „ £50 to £100 ...	0	1	0
Every additional £50 or part thereof ...	0	0	3
Bill of Exchange—Payable on demand etc.	0	0	2
Others not exceeding £10	0	0	2
Over £10 to £25 ...	0	0	6
Every additional £25 or part thereof	0	0	6
Bills of Lading or Receipt for goods &c. to be carried beyond the Gambia ...	0	0	3

Bonds for payment of any sum not exceeding £100	0	5	0
Every additional £25 or part thereof	0	1	0
Bonds of Indemnity etc. not for a specified sum	0	5	0
Conveyances and other Assignments of Property For every £25 or part thereof ...	0	1	0
Leases and Agreements for leases for tenancy or occupancy of any lands or buildings annual rental not exceeding £10	0	0	6
Over £10 to £20 ...	0	1	0
„ £20 „ £50 ...	0	2	0
„ £50 „ £100 ...	0	3	0
Every additional £50 or part thereof	0	2	0
Notarial Act of any kind whatever ...	0	1	0
Powers of Attorney	0	5	0
Receipt for payment of £2 or upwards ...	0	0	2

Government is exempt in cases where a private concern would be liable for payment of duty; other exemptions include receipts for salaries and allowances and certain banking transactions.

Yard Tax.

Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed :—

(a) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses	4/-
(b) For every additional Hut or House in the Yard	1/-
(c) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier ...	2/-
(d) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land	6/-

The Revenue from which during the last five years has been as follows :—

	£
1927	7,639
1928	7,065
1929	11,666
1930	11,073
1931	10,179

This tax is collected by the Commissioners with the assistance of Chiefs, the latter receiving a percentage of the tax.

Chapter XVI Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate were plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are carried out in regard to lands already leased, the revision and preparation of plans, valuations of properties and the assessment of rates for the Town of Bathurst etc.

Grants and Leases of land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 21 years.

Plots at the various trading centres, or Wharf Towns as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10/- per 1,000 square feet for plots in residental areas to £2. 10. 0. per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents collected by Government on public lands in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £8,212 for the year 1931, whilst £299 were received in respect of fees for subletting and surveys. In 1930 the rents and rates amounted to £8,204 and the fees for subletting and surveys to £207. Expenditure amounted to £2,193 in 1931 as compared with £2,228 in 1930.

Activities during 1931:—

The principal activities of the Department were:

Surveys.

In addition to the survey of plots required for trading purposes at various wharf towns in the Protectorate the following surveys were also made :—

The aeroplane landing-ground at Cape St. Mary.

The town of Jawarra.

Wuli Agricultural Station.

Maps and Plans.

Over 300 plans were prepared in addition to the revision and sub-printing of existing plans. A map was made showing roads in the Gambia and adjacent territories and another of the Kombo roads system. The map of the Gambia was revised in part for printing in England.

Grants and Leases.

Ninety-three grants and leases were prepared.

Rates Assessment : Bathurst.

The Rating List for 1931 was completed early in the year and that for 1932 was prepared. In connexion with the latter some 550 properties were visited and assessed.

APPENDIX.

The following are the principle firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia:—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any.)
United Africa Co. Ltd.	Wellington Street	Africa House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Francaise de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
Etablissements Vezia	do.	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Maurel Freres S. A.	do.	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	—
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street	—

WEST AFRICA
GAMBIA AND PORTION OF SENEGAL

Scales
10 0 40 St Miles
10 0 100 Kilometres

Main Roads
Railways
Boundary Gambia-Senegal

30'W 17° 30' 16° 30' 15° 30' 14° 30'
15° N
30'
14°
13°

ATLANTIC OCEAN

THIES
RAILWAY
DAKAR
Bandia
MBAMBEY
DIOURBEL
FISSEL
MBOOR
FATICK
Guinguinéo
Joal
KAOLACK
R. SALOUM
FOUNDIOUNE
KAFFRINE
Malème
RAILWAY
KOUNGHEUL
Koumpentoum
Koussanar
TAMBAKUNDA
Tienda
Paté
Sali
Maka Coulibantang
NIORO DU RIP
Ballinghur
KAUUR
Kudang
Jessadi
KUNTAUR
MAKA
Sine
Guenoto
MESSIRA
Jawarra
Batinghe
Karantuba
Kunchow Ck.
Kerewan
Baimbale
GEORGETOWN
Tendaba
Yabuncka
FATOTO
BATHURST
Albreda
RIVER GAMBIA
BINTANG CK.
Bintang
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BASSE
Brikama
Gunjur
Tampinde
WILLINGARA
GREY R.
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R. SONKOUDOU
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The Dissemination of Research Results among Agricultural Producers. (E.M.B. 33.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1932.

Chapter I. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

In the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th centuries the Arabs acquired and recorded a good deal of information about the interior of West Africa, but the cartography of Senegambia remained still a blank south of the Gezola or Gedala Tuareg of the Seguiet-el-Hamra (Wadi Targa) when the Genœse Giovanni di Caringnano made his planisphere in 1320.

In the 12th and 13th centuries, however, the numerous Jewish trading communities which traded mainly in gold from such centres as Tuat and Nul Lamta (Wadi Draa) south to Melli (Bambuk) and beyond, had acquired so much information about the Western Sudan and Sahara that the maps of the cartographers of Majorca as, for instance, the planisphere of Angelino Dulcert (Majorca; 1339 A.D., and that of the converted Jew Mecia de Viladestes 1413 A.D. show a considerable advance in recorded knowledge.

The latter shows Taghazza or Taodeni of the salt mines (the Tutek of the El Bekri) as Tutega, and also Tacrur, the country of the Tucolor, and for the first time the Gambia River is shown under the name "N'gelaka". To the north of the N'gelaka is a name Ude or Wude, also a country and cape called Abach as well as Ihsengar (the Senegal River). In the valley of the river N'gelaka, a place called Tegerut is shown, the name being probably akin to the name N'gelaka, both being derived from the Berber N'gel, N'gar, or N'gir with Berber ending -ek or -ik. Angelico Dulcert shows, to the south of the coast region called Abach, a people called Felle who are probably identical with the Ude of Viladestes, *i.e.*, Fulbe.

Though Phœnician sailors from Gadeira (Cadiz) are said to have traded down the West Coast of Africa, the first recorded European exploratory expedition to the Gambia by sea was that of the Genœse Antonic Usodimare, who, on the 12th December, 1455, wrote to his relatives that he had "gone 800 leagues further than any other Christian" and had navigated his 'caravel' as far as the Gamba (Gambia).

Usodimare had left Genoa about the time of the death of the King of Spain, John II of Castile in 1454, at a time when the Spaniards were busy protesting to the Pope against the Portuguese expeditions to Cape Bogador and beyond, but Usodimare's interests or sympathies led him to take back to Lisbon an envoy from a Gambian chief, and agree to make a second voyage to the Gambia as an envoy of the King of Portugal, Alphonso V.

In the letter above quoted, he remarks that he is to sail again in ten days from Lisbon. He also says that the envoy from the Gambian chief was a descendant of a Portuguese sailor who had been saved from one of the ships of the Vivaldi Expedition which had been lost about 170 years before, *i.e.*, in 1285.

Usodimare related his adventures "in the land of Badomel" (*i.e.*, the land of the Bur Dumel) to the Venetian Ca'da Mosto. The latter, on the 22nd March, 1455, set out on board a Portuguese 'caravel', supplied by Prince Henry the Navigator, to make further explorations in Senegambia. Ca'da Mosto records that the King of the Jolofs at this time "was called Zucholin". Ca'da Mosto disembarked at Cayor, "the palm beach of Bur Dumel". At the town of the 'Bisboror', the nephew of the king, Ca'da Mosto was entertained. The Bur Dumel was a professing Muhammedan at this time.

The Jolof Kingdom is said by Ca'da Mosto to have extended east as far as the country of the Fulbe and the Tucolor. South of the Kingdom of Joal and north of the Gambia was the country of the Barbasines. Their King lived in the interior in a fortified town called Jagaon (Jago) in place of the former Capital M'bissel in Sine west of Kaolack. Ca'da Mosto also disembarked on an island in the estuary of the Gambia which he called the Isle of St. Andrew after the christian name of a sailor who was buried there.

On proceeding further Ca'da Mosto was told that the country belonged to King Farisangal (Bur Senegal) a vassal of the Bur Melli.

Twenty leagues south of the Gambia (100 miles) Ca'da Mosto met the Casa Mansa, but before making this journey he records that he went 60 leagues (240 miles) "to the south" in the kingdom of the 'Battimansa'. The word 'south' however, here does not mean "directly south", but south east. The Battimansa was the King of the "Badli-bu", between the Bintang Creek and Kantora. Almost at the same time as Ca'da Mosto's visit to the Gambia, it was visited by Diago Gomez who also mentions the 'Farisangal' (Bur Senegal). Guided by a certain Bucker (Bukr) Gomez visited Kantora. It was believed by these travellers that the Senegal and Gambia were two mouths of one river enclosing the "delta of the Nile of Gana". The two rivers are so shown on a Venetian map of that period.

According to Pacheo Pereira, the chief commercial centre of Kantora at this time was called Sutuku. The whole of the right bank of the Upper River was subject to the King of Melle (Bur Melle), the left bank presumably being the Kingdom of the Batti Mansa.

The trade route from Kaukau (Gao) to Kantora at this time passed Samanda (near Segu on the Upper Niger), Conmaberta (Galam), and Cereculle (Sarahulle), according to an informant of Gomez.

Gomez made a second Expedition to the Gambia and visited Ulimansa (Mansa of Wuli) and then the Battimansa on the left bank with whom he made some kind of treaty.

The King of Nomymans (Niumi), who had hitherto been hostile, was also visited, and a treaty, "sealed by drinking the red and white wine of Portugal", was made.

In 1460 Gomez returned not to Niumi but to the 'Barbasines', neighbours of the Serreos (Sereres). The Bur Gebil (Jolof chief of the Griots) had just been defeated and pursued by the Burbuk, (Jolof king) and had taken refuge at a port called Zaza (Albreda).

The voyages made by Ca'da Mosto and by Gomez established the trade supremacy of the Portuguese on the West Coast of Africa and they were able to maintain a monopoly for more than a century. An English expedition, fitted out in 1481 was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals".

The annexation of Portugal to Spain under Philip II in 1580 caused the decline of Portuguese maritime enterprise, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between and the trade of the hinterland.

In 1618 a Royal Charter was granted by King James I of England to an Association of London Merchants, entitled "The Company of Adventurers of London trading in Africa", with Timbuktu *via* the Gambia as their objective. George Thompson, who had travelled in the Barbary States, was despatched to the Gambia at the head of an expedition, with orders to ascend the river, then believed to be a tributary of the Niger, penetrate into the interior in the search for the Eldorado in Africa of that age, and enter into commercial relations with its ruler. He reached Kassang (Gassan), a Portuguese trading station, some 147 miles up the river, but during his absence inland his ship was captured and the crew murdered by the Portuguese. A relief ship was despatched from England, and Thompson, continuing his explorations, founded a settlement at Fatta Tenda, about 240 miles from the mouth of the river. He was afterwards killed in a quarrel with one of his company.

Richard Jobson then headed two expeditions sent out by the Company to find Thompson. During the second, Jobson sailed up to Fatta Tenda, where he succeeded in establishing friendly relations with the natives. He ascended the river in boats beyond the Barra Kunda rapids, prior to his final return to England. He was followed about 40 years later by Vermuyden, a Dutch explorer and merchant of Charles the Second's day.

In the year 1664 Captain (afterwards Admiral Sir Robert) Holmes, R.N., founded and built a small bastioned fort, mounting 46 guns of different calibres, on a low-lying rocky island, 18 nautical miles

above Bathurst, and named it Fort James in honour of the Duke of York, afterwards King James II of England. In 1695 the French levelled it to the ground, but it was soon rebuilt, though again twice taken by the French in 1702 and 1709. During the years 1695 to 1697 the French held possession of it, and founded on the North Bank, opposite the island, the fortified settlement of Albreda, the site of which was purchased from the then King of Barra, an ancestor of Demba Sonko, who, in 1826, concluded with the British the Ceded Mile Treaty. By the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 the exclusive British rights to Fort James and the River Gambia were recognized by France in return for a similar recognition on the part of England of the French rights over Senegal, including the Island of Goree, which had been recaptured by British arms in 1759. Great Britain, however, retained the right to trade for gum with the Moors at Portendik, near Cape Blanco, and as a set-off the French retained their factory at Albreda. Territorial re-adjustments followed by the Treaty of Paris in 1851, and again in 1857. The headquarters of the Royal African Company on the Gambia were graphically described by Francis Moore, a writer in the service of the Company, in 1730.

The same Company despatched Captain Bartholomew Stibbs in 1723 on a voyage up the Gambia. He was followed by Harrison in 1732, and, in turn, by Captain Leach, Captain Pyke, McHoughton, Captain Major, and many others, all of whom were engaged in trade, exploration, and the slave traffic.

In 1788 the African Association, since merged into the Royal Geographical Society, was formed under the presidency of Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, and further steps were taken to explore the interior. In 1791 Major Houghton ascended the river, travelled across the Kingdoms of Bambuk and Wuli, and then disappeared, having, it is thought, been murdered. In 1795, and again in 1805, the Association sent out Mungo Park to explore the River Niger. On the death of Park, the Upper Gambia was abandoned as a route to Timbuktu and the Niger.

Chartered Company administration was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three

hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jollofs, Mandingos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mohammedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province, comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 911 square miles and a population of 35,400. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandingos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river-ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Dunkunku Niamina, Fuladu West, Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,186 square miles and the population 53,250. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jollofs and Mandingos.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,088 square miles and the population 48,900. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandingos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts while the Kombo Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 47,640. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandingo in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandingos, Jolloffs and Turankoes (Mahommedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Joloff and Mandingo districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy though, with modern methods of sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1931.

CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches.)
January	74.6	48	—
February	73.5	70	—
March	88.1	59	—
April	74.6	63	—
May	77.6	67	0.05
June	79.6	72	3.34
July	80.0	76	8.33
August	79.2	80	25.81
September	79.7	76	8.76
October	81.6	68	1.32
November	78.6	57	—
December	75.2	31	—
		Total ...	47.61 inches.

In the Protectorate the records of rainfall were :

South Bank Province	(Sukuta)	55.56 inches.
North Bank Province	(Kerewan)	32.97 „
MacCarthy Island Province	(Georgetown)	36.36 „
Upper River Province.	(Wuli)	39.01 „

Chapter II Government.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated) and also Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo all of which are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), some Official Members, usually the Members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an "Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of "certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by "Commissioners", (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that "All "native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories which are "not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance "of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have "the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance". The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms:—

> "31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—
>
> (*a*) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace, and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description.
>
> (*b*) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate;
>
> (*c*) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner's Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads "Every person employed

"by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order "lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a "person authorized to execute Process of the Supreme Court".

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 has been revised in some respects but the administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district.

The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising, in the community, which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandingo word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Chief one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Chief's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a chief. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

During the year 1932 more continuity in Protectorate Administration was effected by the establishment of a definite Administrative Head Quarters in each of the four Provinces, with Provincial Offices which are open for business throughout the year. The former system of advances of 'seed nuts' and rice to the Chiefs and people of the Protectorate was also discontinued resulting in a large increase in home-grown food-stuffs as well as an adequate export crop of ground-nuts, and a considerable all-round gain in morale and more confident exercise of responsible local administrative supervision by Chiefs and other Native Authorities.

Local Government.—In 1931 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health was constituted in place of the Board of Health for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of the Town, and is composed of representatives of the various Government Departments concerned, of six Members elected by the Town Wards and of four Members, nominated by the Governor, representing the Commercial and Shipping interests.

Meetings of the Council were held in each quarter of the year 1932 and not only was the advice tendered at these meetings of great value to Government, but also the Councillors individually afforded considerable assistance in regard to numerous matters affecting the general welfare and progress of their Town.

Chapter III. Population.

The Population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants reside on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the Town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the Races in the Protectorate is as follow :—

Mandingo	85,640
Jollof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambarra	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as ollows :—

	Births.	Deaths.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered).
1928	262	461	395
1929	315	502	333
1930	366	411	283
1931	422	369	227
1932	339	355	242

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered, (certificates of death and burial permits being required in all cases), births of infants to parents, in particular to illiterate parents, are not always registered. This would account for the comparatively large excess of deaths over births which have been registered from year to year. It is likely however, that registration of births will become more accurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

With regard to the Infantile Mortality Rate the figure given for 1932 is for the whole of Bathurst; of the 339 births, 93 were conducted by the clinic staff and of these 10 died within

twelve months giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 107 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles, and compares more than favourably with the general mortality rate of 242 for the whole of Bathurst.

Emigration and immigration.

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the commencement of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French Territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past three years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows:—940 in 1930, 851 in 1931 and 634 in 1932 ; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who :—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,

(*b*) is an idiot or insane,

(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,

(*d*) is a prostitute, or

(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount.

At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor not having become destitute or unable to support himself, departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health.

The health of the inhabitants of the Gambia was on the whole satisfactory. Complaints of the Respiratory and Digestive Systems remained the most prevalent; in 1932 there were 1515 cases of the former with 17 deaths and 2,563 cases of the latter with 10 deaths.

The Gambia is entirely an agricultural Colony, containing no mines or factories, and as a result no complaints are met with which can be ascribed to these two factors.

Malaria fever remains the most usual tropical complaint under treatment : in 1932 there were 632 cases with 2 deaths.

There are one Hospital and two Dispensaries in the Protectorate, in charge of a Medical Officer and three Dispensers, and from these centres prophylactic work is undertaken in the way of vaccination against small-pox and treatment of all kinds of sickness is undertaken. In Bathurst there is an European and African General Hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics, and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics. In addition there is a Public Health Service which attends to drainage and sanitary organisation

During 1932 there was no outbreak of serious illness such as yellow fever, plague, small-pox. The general public showed an appreciation of the special nature of the help obtainable at the Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics.

Drainage and sand filling of depressions was much to the fore during the year and the reclamation of shallow, low-lying, tidal areas by sand and refuse was continued with satisfactory results.

The Health Department continued operations against mosquito breeding. This work is both difficult and expensive owing to the existence of large numbers of land-crab holes which provide ideal hatching-out places for mosquitoes.

Chapter V. Housing.

There are no slums in Bathurst and the houses and compounds are well kept. There is some overcrowding at times during the "Trade Season" but not of a serious nature. All houses and compounds are periodically inspected by the Health Authorities and the Sanitary and Building Laws are enforced. Houses are constructed of different kinds of material; for instance some are of wattle and daub, others of brick, others again are of concrete bricks, and the most usual roofing is of corrugated iron.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. These houses are well suited to local conditions. There is no overcrowding since ample space is available for expansion. The houses and villages generally are well kept and sanitation is satisfactory. Periodical inspections of villages are made by Commissioners and officers of the Medical Staff. In the Protectorate the houses are almost invariably built and owned by the occupants and the same applies, though to a lesser extent, in Bathurst.

Statistics. (1931 Census).

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	47,636	20,509
South Bank Province	48,888	21,194
MacCarthy Island Province ...	53,254	32,540
Upper River Province	35,372	18,113
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst) ...	14,370	3,177

Chapter VI. Production.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of foodstuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Cotton is grown on a fairly extensive scale in some Provinces particularly the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of coloured cloth. Experiments are being conducted in connection with the growing of crops under irrigation during the dry season.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Tons.	Value. £
1928	74,442	1,092,790
1929	56,355	765,564
1930	74,761	867,634
1931	66,811	506,125
1932	37,315	391,659

A small export trade is done in Palm Kernels, Hides and Wax. In 1932 the exports of these commodities were:—

			£
Palm Kernels	722 tons,	value	5,550
Hides	90,121 lbs.	„	816
Wax	41,246 lbs.	„	1,254

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the River and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1932 some 7,000 head of cattle are reported to have died in the Gambia of Rinderpest but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership

of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born.

The graziers in the Gambia are practically all Fulas or Jolas in the South Bank Province.

In addition to cattle there is a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs which are reared mainly for local consumption.

There are no minerals of commercial value in the Colony nor are there any important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	1,010,686	597,161	529,985	250,311	292,700
Specie	224,977	20,691	12,775	2,302	5,141
Total ...	1,235,663	617,852	542,760	252,613	297,841

The following table shows the principal items of Imports from the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the year 1932.

Articles.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	France.	United States of America.	Other Countries.	Total.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	2,890	...	213	137	1,413	...	4,653
Bags & Sacks No. ...	219	2,608	338	...	60	97,178	3,225
Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ...	1,168	...	...	...	335	8,413 galls.	1,503
Biscuits, Bread and Cakes ...	937	...	988	...	10	1,183 cwt.	1,935
Boots, Shoes and Slippers	738	...	520	...	841	20,238 pairs	2,099
Cement ...	1,493	...	28	...	151	500 tons	1,672
Cotton Piece Goods ...	69,251	...	2,465	260	8,302	4,775,199 sq.yds.	80,278
Coal	3,821	...	..	...	...	1,560 tons	3,821
Cotton Manufacture (other)	5,188	163	1,537	...	4,384	...	11,272
Cotton Yarn ...	6,879	...	693	...	662	146,672 lbs.	8,234
Flour Wheaten	1,318	1,072	1,953	2,547	26	11,035 cwt.	6,916
Hats and Caps	235	...	947	...	830	...	2,012
Kola-Nuts ...	...	23,567	...	...	2	15,691 cwt.	23,569
Lumber ...	453	...	703	79	35	86,564sup.ft.	1,270
Medicines and Drugs ...	1,984	...	305	54	63	...	2,406
Metal all kinds	4,876	...	828	41	866	...	6,611
Motor Cars and Lorries No.	3,028	331	...	178	100	15	3,637
Oils, Edible ...	2,245	...	1,110	...	1,901	42,880 galls.	5,256
Oils, not Edible	638	622	234	7,591	1,774	183,480 galls.	10,859
Rice	8,901	11,867	10,090	...	5,243	75,002 cwt.	36,101
Salt	31	..	...	...	2,697	1,633 tons	2,728
Soap	124	...	2,760	...	140	2,585 cwt.	3,024
Spirits, potable	1,588	...	317	...	72	2,088 galls.	1,977
Sugar	468	...	9,668	...	752	12,675 cwt.	10,888
Tea	695	38	206	...	3	10,641 lbs.	942
Tobacco ...	4,103	...	107	5,468	324	141,672 lbs.	10,002
Wines... ...	108	...	1,524	...	508	15,353 galls.	2,140

The percentages of Imports from all Countries, exclusive of Specie, were as fo' ows :—

Country.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	37.99	34.42	34.39	37.73	51.02
British Posses ...	10.23	10.69	11.11	14.45	15.07
Totals—British Empire	48.22	45.11	45.50	52.18	66.09
Denmark	01.89	—	—	—	00.22
France	34.08	39.65	29.75	24.52	14.75
Germany	05.19	02.63	03.68	3.67	01.59
Holland	02.04	—	01.76	1.78	01.40
U. S. A.	05.60	06.63	06.87	8.35	06.06
Other Countries ...	02.98	05.98	12.44	9.50	09.89

The following table shows the comparative prices per unit of the principal items of Imports for the last five years :—

Article.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	3 6. 7½	3 10. 1¾	2 14. 7½	2 12. 9	3 10. 10½
Coal per ton	2 9. 0	2 9. 10	2 9. 7	2 9. 1½	2 8. 11¾
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yds.	0 0. 7¼	0 0. 5¾	0 0. 6½	0 0. 5	0 0. 4
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	0 18. 7	0 16. 7¼	0 14. 11½	0 11. 11	0 12. 5¼
Kola Nuts per cwt.	5 6. 0	4 2. 1	3 14. 6	1 11. 8	1 10. 0
Oils Edible per gall.	0 3. 8	0 3. 8	0 2. 10¾	0 2. 5	0 2. 5¼
Rice per cwt.	0 13. 8½	0 13. 6¼	0 12. 8	0 9. 3¾	0 9. 7½
Salt per ton	1 15. 9	1 6. 10½	1 9. 2	2 6. 6	1 13. 4¾
Sugar per cwt.	0 19. 7	0 19. 5¼	0 17. 1¼	0 17. 0	0 17. 2
Tea per lb.	0 2. 2¾	0 2. 3¾	0 2. 1	0 1. 6¾	0 1. 9

Exports.

The Exports for the last five years including Specie were as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	1,156,009	840,929	898,807	527,111	406,894
Specie	22,400	3,831	7,836	2,761	199,620
Total ...	1,178,409	844,760	906,643	529,872	606,514

The following table shows the principal items of Exports to the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the year 1932.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides.		Palm Kernels.	
	Tons.	Value.	No.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	7,619	80,019	2,002	101	96	717
British Possessions	15	176	—	—	—	—
France	23,506	241,259	4,313	601	135	1,219
Germany ...	—	—	988	114	491	3,614
Holland	3,669	43,619	—	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	2,506	26,586	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	37,315	391,659	7,303	816	722	5,550

The percentages of Exports to all Countries exclusive of Specie were as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	33.80	15.18	1[illegible].35	03.83	20.66
British Possessions ...	00.57	03.64	01.96	00.82	00.89
Totals British Empire ...	34.37	18.82	21.31	04.65	21.55
Denmark	06.38	06.83	04.29	—	—
France	30.92	33.03	39.95	56.90	59.80
Germany	20.60	28.01	17.82	19.91	00.92
Holland	05.81	10.26	16.17	15.21	10.73
Other Countries ...	01.92	03.05	00.46	03.33	07.00

The following table shows the comparative prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	14. 12. 4	13. 10. 5	11. 12. 1	7. 11. 6	10. 9. 11
Hides per lb.	0. 0. 10¼	0. 0. 7½	0. 0. 4¼	0. 0. 2¾	0. 0. 2
Palm Kernels per ton	15. 12. 0	13. 18. 5½	10. 17. 3	8. 19. 9½	7. 13. 8¾

Shipping.

The percentages of Shipping of various Nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	%	%	%	%	%
British	64.1	67.9	62.0	55.4	57.2
French	12.4	13.4	12.4	19.0	21.8
Dutch	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.3	2.7
German	4.3	5.4	5.7	3.3	4.6
Norwegian...	2.8	3.3	5.6	—	3.0
American	4.8	4.9	5.5	4.8	5.7
Italian	3.9	—	—	1.8	—
Swedish	—	1.2	3.0	7.2	4.9
Danish	—	—	—	2.9	—
Other Countries	4.1	1.1	2.8	1.3	0.1

Chapter VIII. Wages and Cost of Living.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives, from French Territory, enter Bathurst to obtain employment; whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

Rates of pay.

The rates of pay for artisans such as Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Fitters, Masons and Painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day (8 hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) those on a monthly wage,
(*b*) those on a daily wage, and
(*c*) farm labourers.

(*a*) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in most cases, a monthly issue of 45 lbs. of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (e.g. sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/9 to 2/6 a day. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

(*b*) Daily wage labourers receive from 1/- to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(*c*) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crop is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local natives each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subjects referred to above.

Cost of living.

In the Protectorate, "corn" is the staple diet of the labouring class, whilst a considerable amount of rice, bread and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer. The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows:—

Rice or corn	...	...	...	3*d.*
Bread	...	...	...	1*d.*
Fish	...	...	...	1*d.*
Oil	...	...	...	1*d.*
Sugar	...	...	...	½*d.*
Condiments	...	...	...	½*d.*
	Total	...	...	7*d.*

Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1*d*.

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/- a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for himself is rather less than that in Bathurst.

The prices of foodstuffs are generally lower than those obtaining before the war. The following table gives some examples:—

	1932	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	26/-	33/-
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/-	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	13/-	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/3	4/-
Sugar per lb.	3*d*	5½*d*.

Cost of living, European Government Officials.

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst:

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Firewood	9
Electric Light	10
Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc.)	40
Provisions & Wines	125
Tobacco	10
Widows and Orphans Pension contribution	24
Miscellaneous Expenditure including equipment	35
Total	£335

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

Chapter IX. Education and Welfare Institutions.

Education in the Gambia is controlled by the Board of Education of which the Governor is the President. The Members of the Board include all the members of the Legislative Council, the Superintendent of Education and such other members, not exceeding six in number, as may be appointed by the Governor. The nominated members hold office for a period of not more than three years and they include representatives of the three Missions which operate in the Gambia, namely, the Methodist, the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Missions. The powers of the Board are defined in the Education Ordinance (No. 14 of 1903). Briefly, the Board is empowered to dispose annually of such sum as the Legislative Council has granted for the promotion of Education and to make regulations respecting grants-in-aid to assisted schools, the conduct of schools generally, the award of scholarships and other matters connected with the Education Ordinance. Such Regulations, after approval by the Governor-in-Council, come into operation as from the date on which they appear in the *Gazette*.

The Education Department is administered by a Superintendent of Education, who is an officer seconded from the Provincial Administration. The headquarters of the department are at Georgetown, where the Superintendent of Education also supervises the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

Elementary, secondary and vocational education are provided by Government or by the Missions with the aid of Government grants. There is no University education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which, in 1932, had a total of 1,765 pupils on the registers (1,191 boys and 574 girls) and an average attendance of 1,079. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard. Five of them are maintained by Missions (Anglican, one; Roman Catholic, two and Methodist, two) and the Government maintains a Mohammedan school at which Arabic is taught in addition to the English subjects.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst, two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Methodist Missions. The total numbers on the register in 1932 were 109 boys and 92 girls with average attendances of 67 and 72 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government.

A Manual Training Centre is maintained under the Public Works Department, and boys from all the Bathurst schools attend for instruction in carpentry, and suitable mechanical and geometrical drawing is taught in connection with the manual work.

A Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst in 1930, under the Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions, at which some fifty Bathurst elementary school teachers, who had had no previous training, took a two-year course of instruction. The school is now training candidates for the teaching profession, and in 1932 there were twenty students on the register.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with 43 boys on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools, which would only have a local effect, and the training given in the school leads to this end.

The following examinations were held during the year: Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination, Elementary Schools Annual Examination; African Civil Service Language Examination (Preliminary).

Welfare Institutions, etc.

Free medical treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreation, etc,

In Bathurst, Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. Organised games are conducted by the schools who are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and Cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst and Government has provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once in every week by the Police Band on MacCarthy Square and also in front of Government House, when the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public. These concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter X. Communications and Transport.

External:—

For mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs Elder Dempster Lines Ltd. There is a monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every six weeks.

Internal:—

River Transport:—

As stated in Chapter I the Gambia River is navigable for ocean-going vessels as far as Kuntau-ur (150 miles from Bathurst) and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina (292 miles).

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters and also in cutters and schooners, though the latter have now been almost entirely replaced by steam craft.

Roads:—

There are four Trunk Roads:

No. 1. Bathurst-Jeshwang-Abuko-Lamim-Yundum, Brikama-Kafuta-N'Demban-Bwiam-Brumen Ferry (90¾ miles).

No. 2. Barra-Berrending (Bantanding),-Dasalami-Banni-N'Jakunda-Illiassa (62 miles).

No. 3. Illiassa-Katchang Ferry-Konkoba-Kwinella-Jattaba-Brumen Ferry (22½ miles) with a branch eastwards from Jatabba to Sandeng and the French boundary (2½ miles).

No. 4. Bantanding on Road No. 2 to the French boundary (¾ miles).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa *via* Ballanghar, Kau-ur, Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the South Bank running from Kwinella to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary and feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows:—

North Bank Province	...	...	116 miles
South Bank Province	...	...	95 „
MacCarthy Island Province		...	280 „
Upper River Province	...	...	200 „

Marine Department.

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government Steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons).

The steamers call at 26 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse—a distance of 242 miles from Bathurst—and 31 ports when calling at Fattoto—a distance of 288 miles from Bathurst.

This ensures communication with all ports in the Protectorate twice weekly during the trade season from November to May; and during the remaining months of the year, a fortnightly or monthly service is maintained.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows:—

		1931.	1932.	
Passengers carried	...	11,980	9,233	
Cargo (tons)	...	2,409	1,311	
Revenue from passenger traffic		£4,232	£3,134	1*s.* 10*d.*
Revenue from freight	...	£3,712	£2,413	14*s.* 3*d.*

The decline in freight was due to the trade depression; but a considerable decrease of expenditure was effected in the maintenance of Government Vessels.

The refitting of Government Steamers was carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The Workshop is fitted with up-to-date machines capable of carrying out all repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross. This is the tonnage of the largest River Steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for Harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries:—

Passenger and vehicular ferries have been installed by Government in connection with the road system at the following points:—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)
Katchang-Konkoba (Road No, 3)
Brumen (connecting Roads Nos. 1 & 3)
Lamin Koto—MacCarthy Island
Sankuli Kunda—MacCarthy Island
Bansang, Basse, Fattoto } continuation of Road No. 2.

There is also a small passenger ferry at Bali in the Jawarra Creek.

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1932.

Postal Service :—

Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Officers are on these boats, and all classes of Postal business are transacted at all ports of call along the river bank. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post & Telegraph Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The latter office is, however, closed during the rains.

During 1932 the number of letters and other postal matter exclusive of parcels amounted to 163,252 (including 9,459 registered packets), the relative figures for 1931 being 182,483 and 11,008 respectively.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,397 (including 289 insured parcels), the figures for 1931 being 4,227 and 271 respectively.

Money and Postal Order statistics are as follows :—

	1931	1932
	£	£
Money Orders issued and paid, value	27,430	26,396
Revenue derived from Money Orders	158	151
Postal Orders issued and paid	5,830	5,448
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	47	44

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1932 was £1,575 as compared with £1,514 in 1931.

Telephone Service :—

The service in Bathurst and Cape St. Mary was satisfactorily maintained, the total number of subscribers exclusive of extensions being 74. The revenue derived from the service was £519, (of which £368 represents the value of free service to Government Departments), as compared with £139, exclusive of the value of such service, in 1931.

Wireless Service :—

There is no land line Telegraph System in the Gambia but inland communication is maintained by four Wireless Stations situated at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse.

The Station at Bathurst which has a range of 1,000 miles also communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is taken daily and circulated. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The revenue derived from the Wireless Service in 1932 was £772, including £360 in respect of Government messages, as compared with £428 in 1921.

Chapter XI. Banking, Currency, Weights & Measures.

Bank.

The only Bank in this Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Post Office Savings Bank, the rate of interest being 2½% per annum.

Currency.

The currency is British West African alloy and nickel-bronze coins of denominations 2/-, 1/-, 6d, 3d, 1d, & ½d; and British West African Currency Notes of 20/- & 10/- denominations (French five-franc pieces which were formerly in circulation were demonetised in 1922).

Stocks of Currency are held on behalf of the West African Currency Board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required, against payment in London.

The value of the Notes in circulation on the 31st December 1932 was £215,436 as compared with £211,932 on the 31st December 1931 whilst Alloy Coins to the value of £221,372 were in circulation at the end of 1932 as against £210,149 at the end of the previous year.

Weights and Measures.

Standard Weights and Measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial Measures of Capacity, Length and Surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance of 1902 and are kept by Government.

The Commissioner of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of all the public works in the Colony and Protectorate, for which provision is made in the annual Estimates, and for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department.

The Engineering staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen and two African Foremen of Works. The Accounts and Stores staff consists of two Accountants and nine African Clerks.

In addition to the above-mentioned works the Department operates the Electric Light and Power Services, comprising some 35 miles of distribution mains, the Bathurst Waterworks, the Fire Protection plant and the Government Motor Transport Service.

Roads, streets and tram-lines in Bathurst are maintained by the Department as is also the Government Wharf.

The main road from Bathurst through St. Mary's Island to Kombo St. Mary, together with certain trunk roads in the Protectorate serving the creeks and the lower river, are also maintained by the Department.

Activities during 1932:—

(*a*) Maintenance (Expenditure £11,933).

Bathurst Water Supply.

A scheme costing £18,000 for the renewal of the gravity main was approved. The cost is being met partly from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund and partly from loan funds. It is intended to lay a 10-inch concrete-lined, spun cast iron pipe from the reservoir at Cape St. Mary to Bathurst, a distance of approximately eight miles. Delivery of a certain amount of the materials was effected.

The total number of gallons of water pumped during 1932 amounted to 39,456,000.

The rates charged are as follows :—

General Water Rate	1½ per cent on rateable value.
Water supply rate for taps in yard	£2 per annum.
Water supply to vessels	1/4 per 100 gallons.
Meter Rate	1/6 per 1,000 gallons.

Revenue.

Water Rate (1½ per cent) Supply Rate per tap (£2 per annum)	£1,180	0 5
Watering Vessels	145	15 6
Metered Rate	2	10 4
	£1,328	6 3.

In addition to the above the value of water supplied to Government Departments amounted to £247 1*s.* 0*d.*

Expenditure.

Excluding the emoluments of the permanent staff the expenditure during 1931 on the maintenance of the water supply amounted to £1,999 13 8.

Electric Light and Power, Bathurst.

A continuous 24 hours service was maintained and during the year a total of 356,909 Board of Trade Units were generated as follows:—

No. 1	Generator	25	K. W.	Capacity	...	34,193
„ 2	„	50	„	„	...	162,152
„ 3	„	100	„	„	...	55,976
„ 4	„	100	„	„	...	104,588
						356,909

Maximum load on Generators 93.96 K.W. .99 P.F.

Units generated for the year show an increase of 44,092 over last year's working.

The value of the supply of electrical energy during the year amounted to £8,082 whilst the cost of maintenance (exclusive of permanent staff) was £2,224.

The rates charged are:—Lighting 9d. per unit (minimum charge 10/- per month), Domestic 3d. per unit (minimum charge 2/6d. per month), Power 6d. per unit, and a contract rate fixed by agreement.

Free services include the lighting of streets, the Hospital, Government Wharf, Government Offices and the Wireless Station.

Ice Plant.

The quantity of ice manufactured was 59 tons of which 58½ tons were retailed to the public at the rate of 1d. per lb. Cash sales realized £425, whilst the value of ice supplied to Victoria Hospital and the Health Department was £123. The cost to Government of producing the ice was £286, exclusive of interest and depreciation of plant and buildings and supervising staff.

Albert Market Refrigerating Plant, Bathurst.

Approximately 143 tons of meat and 2 tons of fish passed through this plant during the year, the running hours averaging 5½ hours a day. 7,380 electrical units were consumed.

General.

The Department also undertook the usual maintenance and repair of public buildings, roads and the Bathurst Government Wharf. The Motor Transport Service was satisfactorily maintained.

(*b*) CONSTRUCTION, ETC.

(Expenditure £15,561 including that on Colonial Development Fund Schemes.)

The principal works carried out during the year included:

Reclamation and Drainage.

Approximately £447 was expended on further reclamation in the Lasso Wharf Area in Bathurst and a tram-line was laid to facilitate sand-filling.

Roads in Bathurst.

The principal streets dealt with during the year were:—

Anglesea Street	Ballasted with cinders
Clarkson Street	surfaced with laterite and bitumen painted
Part Albion Place	do.
Rankin Street (Albion Place to Spalding Street) ...	do.
Peel Street (Spalding Street to Llewellyn Street) ...	do.

Bathurst—Cape St. Mary Road.

Bitumen surfacing was continued, leaving only a short section to complete.

Trunk Roads.

The consolidation of Trunk Roads Nos. 2 and 3 was continued, the principal works being the metalling of the Dasalami Causeway, the raising and straightening of the Boa Bolong Causway on Road No. 2 and the reconstruction of causeways on Road No. 3.

Colonial Development Scheme.

A scheme for the development of roads in the Kombo, estimated to cost £20,000, was sanctioned. Expenditure will be met partly from a grant under the Colonial Development Fund and partly from Loan funds. Work commenced in June when a quarry was established at Lamin Beretto from which some 21,000 cubic yards of laterite stone were obtained. Actual road work, clearing, stumping, etc., commenced in December on the section from Kanifi to Yundum whilst the gravelling of the road from Kanifi to Sukuta was also undertaken.

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1895. It is presided over by a Cadi. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. In practice, its work is mainly confined to divorce and dowry among the Mohammedans. The proceedings are conducted in Mandingo or Jolloff but a summarised record is made in Arabic. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not assigned to the Supreme Court and he may also hear and determine summarily thefts and cognate offences where the value of the property does not exceed £20 and the accused will be adequately punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months. Assaults and wounding and infliction of bodily harm, not amounting to felony, may also be dealt with summarily and a like imprisonment imposed. A further extension of summary jurisdiction of the Police Magistrate is given by the Imperial Acts Adoption Ordinance 1931 (No. 2 of 1931) which adopted *inter alia* the Criminal Justice Act 1925.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. Several Europeans and African both Christians and Mohammedans, are on the list of Justices of the Peace. Their jurisdiction with respect to the thefts and cognate offences mentioned above is limited to cases where the value of the property does not exceed £5 and they have no jurisdiction in cases of aggravated assaults.

The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies by way of case stated from the Police Court to the Supreme Court.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction, and breach of promise of marriage. The court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners. The procedure is summary and the general object of the court is the collection of small debts speedily and cheaply. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England. It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from the subordinate courts, the Judge reviews, under the Summary Review Ordinance, all criminal cases tried by these courts in the Colony and the Protectorate. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate if necessity arises.

The Colonial Courts i.e. the Supreme Court, the Police Court, the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court have jurisdiction in the Protectorate as well as in the Colony. *The Protectorate Courts*

properly so called are the Native Tribunals established in each district by the Protectorate Ordinance. Such Tribunals may be constituted by the Commissioner (the political officer) sitting alone or with Native members, in which case the tribunal may try summarily all but the more serious criminal offences and may impose imprisonment up to two years. When constituted by native members only, the powers of punishment and the jurisdiction are restricted and their decisions are subject to review and rehearing if necessary by the Commissioner. The civil jurisdiction of these tribunals is that of the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court at Bathurst, except that when the Commissioner sits the limit of amount of claim is extended to £200. In practice this jurisdiction is never used; all cases of value are brought in the Supreme Court. No lawyers can appear before a native tribunal without the special leave of the Judge of the Supreme Court or the Commissioner of the Province. An appeal lies in all cases from a tribunal when presided over by the Commissioner to the Supreme Court.

Coroner's Court.

A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioner.

Staff.

There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty-seven Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi and approximately two hundred members of native tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receive fines and fees.

Juvenile Offenders.

In Bathurst the Police Magistrate or the Justices of the Peace are empowered to hold a Juvenile Court. The occasions are rare. The imposition of imprisonment is avoided as far as possible and, when imposed, special prison arrangements are made.

Fines and Probation.

Time is practically always given for the payment of fines. There is no regular probation system with paid probation officers, but since the Imperial Acts Adoption Ordinance came into force, early in 1931, it has been found possible to apply the principles of the Probation of Offenders Act 1907 to the work of the Bathurst Police Court. In the Protectorate, native law and custom operate in the treatment of offenders. Most offences are punished by small fines. Corporal punishment is practically never imposed by any court, Colonial or Protectorate. With regard to the Protectorate, all sentences of more than 14 days imprisonment must be served in Bathurst Goal.

Crime.

There has been no increase in the amount of crime during the year. In the Colony 478 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 681 persons in 1931. The

1931 figure was higher than normal owing to an increase in the number of persons prosecuted as undesirable immigrants. In 1930 the total number of persons brought before this Court was 447: a comparable figure with 478 for 1932.

In the Protectorate the native tribunals in their criminal jurisdiction dealt with 942 persons as compared with 1,235 persons in 1931, and 267 persons received sentences of peremptory imprisonment as compared with 378 in 1931.

The number of criminal informations filed in the Supreme Court during the year is higher than in 1931, but the offences were less serious. No persons were sentenced to death whereas in 1931 there more 9 death sentences of which 7 were commuted to lengthy terms of imprisonment.

Statistics for the year 1932.

Criminal.

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals	Convictions
Supreme Court ...	22	1 acquitted 3 *nolle prosequi*	—	15
Police Court ...	478	96	20	362
Protectorate Courts :—				
North Bank Province ...	127	12	Nil	115
South Bank Province ...	218	7	Nil	211
MacCarthy Is. Province	295	29	2	264
Upper River Province ...	302	26	5	271

Civil.

Supreme Court	...	...	23 cases
Mohammedan Court	...	...	92 cases
Court of Requests	...	...	1,365 cases.

POLICE.

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Commissioner of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent of Police and

the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of an Inspector of Police, two Sub-Inspectors and 124 other ranks, including 26 Band personnel.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of Weights and Measures, traffic control, fire-fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

Maintenance of Law and Order.

Statistics.

	1931.	1932.
Cases dealt with	625	447
Prosecutions conducted... ...	540	317
Convictions obtained	501	272
Inquest summonses served ...	19	8
Warrants executed	16	9
Summonses and Subpœnas served	395	738

Issue of Licences.

Motor Vehicle	291	313
Dog	154	91
Firearms	249	288
Domestic Servant	304	280
Motor Driver	288	397
Liquor	16	14
Entertainment	24	27

Traffic Control.

Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Bureau.

The Bureau, which was organized in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and Measures are dealt with in Chapter XI.

Relations with the Public.

Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.

Being an armed force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are exercised in the regular courses of instruction:—

Infantry drill.
Physical training.
Law and general police duties.
Musketry.
Observation training.
Traffic control.
Fire drill.

Health.

The Health of the Force during 1932 was good.

Band.

The public concerts given twice weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

PRISON.

In the Gambia there is only one Prison which is situated on St. Mary's Island in a good position. The buildings which were formerly used as an isolation hospital, were converted into a prison in 1920. They are of solid construction, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three Association Wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out houses. The Warders are accommodated close to the Prison.

Staff.

The Staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Commissioner of Police), an African Chief Warder and nineteen other African Warders.

Health.

The Prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the Prisoners during 1932 was good, the daily average number of sick being .11 or .15 per cent of the average daily number in the prison.

Visiting Committee.

The Prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present Committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Land Officer and an African Member of the Bathurst Urban District Council. In addition, all the Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the Prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.

On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to Prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.

Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of Prisoners

In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking, etc., the prisoners are also employed on minor public works under the supervision of Warders. 6,000 cubic yards of sand has been

transported by Prison labour to the reclaimed area at Lasso Wharf during 1932. A garden is maintained by prison labour and during 1932, 9,870 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.

The discipline during 1932 was good, only twenty-five offences being recorded. Four prisoners escaped and of these one prisoner is still at large.

Admissions and Discharges.

	1931.	1932.
Admissions	386	312
Discharges	354	315
Average daily number of prisoners ...	77.5	70.98

Chapter XIV. Legislation.

During 1932 the following legislation was enacted :—

Ordinances :—

1. The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
2. The Oaths of Office (Amendment) Ordinance.
3. The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Amendment) Ordinance.
4. The Customs Tariff Ordinance.
5. The Loan Ordinance.
6. The Aliens (Acquisition of Property) Ordinance.
7. The Navigation and Pilotage (Amendment) Ordinance.
8. The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance.
9. The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance.
10. The Court of Requests (Amendment) Ordinance.
11. The Manual Labour (Repeal) Ordinance.
12. The Registration of United Kingdom Designs (Amendment) Ordinance.
13. The Registration of United Kingdom Patents (Amendment) Ordinance.
14. The Town of Bathurst (Amendment) Ordinance.
15. The Quarantine Ordinance.
16. The Urban District and Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance.
17. The Widows' and Orphans' Pension (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance.
18. The Unseaworthy Ships (Detention) Ordinance.
19. The Protectorate Trade Licence Ordinance.
20. The Licences Ordinance.
21. The Protectorate Licences Ordinance.
22. The Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance.
23. The Passports (Amendment) Ordinance.
24. The Arms and Ammunition (Amendment) Ordinance.
25. The Dogs (Amendment) Ordinance.
26. The Education (Amendment) Ordinance.
27. The Protectorate (Amendment) Ordinance.
28. The Appropriation Ordinance.
29. The Trade Union Ordinance.

The only Ordinances which call for any comment are—

The Customs Tariff Ordinance, which provides for the imposition of preferential duties in accordance with the agreements reached at the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa in 1932.

The Loan Ordinance, which provides for the raising of a loan for certain public works *i.e.* the making of roads in the Kombo District of the South Bank Province, the renewal of the water supply mains, and the reconditioning of the Government Wharf.

The Aliens (Acquisition of Property) Ordinance, conferring on aliens the right to hold and dispose of real and personal

property in the Colony in all respects as natural born British subjects.

The Quarantine Ordinance, which gives effect to the International Sanitary Convention 1926 to which the Gambia is a party, and makes full provision for preventing the introduction into and spread in the Gambia, and the transmission from the Gambia of dangerous infectious disease.

The Trade Union Ordinance, which provides for the compulsory registration of trade unions and other matters in connection therewith.

The Subsidiary Legislation enacted included the following :—

Rules and Regulations :—

1. The Marine Department (Reward Fund) Rules.
2. The Customs Duties (Drawback) Regulations.
3. The Police Regulations.
4. The Protectorate Ferry Regulations.
5. The Cinematograph Regulations.
6. The Motor Traffic (International Convention 1926) Regulations.
7. The Spirituous Liquors Rules.
8. The Hospital (Amendment) Rules.
9. The Petroleum Regulations.
10. The Postal Regulations.
11. The Wireless Telegraph Regulations.
12. The Quarantine Regulations.
13. The Arms and Ammunition Regulations.
14. The Protectorate Ferry (Amendment) Regulations.
15. The Education Rules.
16. The Hospital (Amendment No. 2) Rules.
17. The European Officers' Pensions Regulations.
18. The Amending Rules of the Supreme Court.
19. The Protectorate Ferry (Amendment No. 2) Regulations.
20. The Protectorate Regulations.

Orders.

No. 3 Made under Section 39 of the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1916, prohibiting the importation of pistols in the form of stylograph pencils or in any other similar disguise.

No. 6 Made under Section 6 (2) of the Cinematograph Ordinance 1931, appointing certain persons to form and be a Board of Control for the purpose of viewing, examining and censoring films, advertisements and posters intended for use in connection with cinematograph exhibitions.

No. 8 Made under Section 12 of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1928, declaring Acetyldihydrocodeinone, its salts and any preparation, admixture, extract or other substance containing any proportion thereof, to be dangerous drugs.

Chapter XV. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue and Expenditure during the last decade was:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1923	£229,688	£211,317
1924	208,613	203,635
1925	189,086	271,836
1926	214,181	213,643
1927	252,419	277,625
1928	255,385	250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015

Currency Board Loan.

The balance of the Loan to the Colony from the West African Currency Board in connection with the demonetization of the French five-franc pieces was repaid during the year.

Assets.

(*a*) Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December 1932 ...	£75,026
(*b*) Reserve Fund	55,402
(*c*) Steamer Depreciation Fund	12,582
	£143,010

Taxation.

The main sources of Revenue from Taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows :—

	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928.
Customs Import Duties.	£	£	£	£	£
Ad valorem	18,588	7,522	12,509	14,510	33,706
Specific :—					
Kola Nuts	29,294	22,319	24,471	24,973	31,210
Kerosene & Petroleum	2,600	2,678	4,291	3,469	4,667
Soap ...	—	451	712	646	1,253
Spirits ...	2,463	2,587	4,911	4,856	6,990
Tobacco ...	10,821	9,954	11,492	12,264	12,846
Wines ...	1,623	2,080	2,840	2,776	4,447
Other Articles	8,030	7,503	3,553	4,332	7,621
Rice	7,984	—	—	—	—
Parcel Post	517	572	839	837	819
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-nuts	18,520	66,321	74,309	55,733	73,809
Total Customs Duties.	£100,440	£121,987	£139,927	£124,396	£177,368

Port Dues	2,324	2,959	4,042	4,355	5,049
Yard Tax	8,370	10,179	11,073	11,665	7,065
Trade Licences	1,968	2,360	3,413	3,662	4,664
Other Licences Liquor & Motor Car etc.	2,435	1,911	2,594	2,454	2,758
TOTAL	£115,537	£139,396	£161,049	£146,532	£196,903

Customs Tariff.

A new tariff was introduced during the year which grants a preference of about 25 per cent. to articles of British Empire origin. A preferential duty at the rate of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* as against a general duty at the rate of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on most articles that are not exempt or subject to a specific rate of duty. 5 per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on Motor Cars, Motor Lorries, Motor Cycles, Cycles and Rubber Tyres of British Empire origin, whilst the foreign product is subject to a duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. The duty on Cotton Goods is 15 per cent. under Preference and 20 per cent. under General.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

There are no Excise Duties.

The Stamp Duty Ordinance came into operation on the 14th January 1932 and during the year the Revenue collected thereunder amounted to £156.

Yard Tax.

Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed :—

(*a*) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses 5/-

(*b*) For every additional Hut or House in the yard ... 1/6

(*c*) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier ... 2/-

(*d*) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land 8/-

The Revenue from this tax during the last five years has been as follows :—

	£
1928	7,065
1929	11,666
1930	11,073
1931	10,179
1932	8,370

Chapter XVI. Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are carried out in regard to lands already leased, the revision and preparation of plans, valuations of properties and the assessment of rates for the Town of Bathurst, etc.

Grants and Leases of land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 21 years.

Plots at the various trading centres, or Wharf Towns as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the Town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst varying from 10/- per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2. 10. 0. per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £7,905 for the year 1932, whilst £117 were received in respect of fees for subletting and surveys. In 1931 the rents and rates amounted to £8,212 and the fees for subletting and surveys to £299. Expenditure was £1,875 in 1932 as compared with £2,198 in 1931.

Activities during 1932 :—

Surveys.

Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

Some revision survey was done to correct the plan of the Town of Bathurst.

Plans.

161 plans were prepared in connection with land granted or leased.

166 plans were drawn in the records of the Colonial Registry.

Various plans and sun-prints were made for Departmental use and for the Commissioners.

Grants and Leases.

Forty-nine grants and leases were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.

The Rating List for 1932 was completed early in the year and that for 1933 was prepared. Owing to financial depression and the reduction of rentals in Bathurst the rates imposed for 1933 was reduced from £5 per cent to £4 per cent.

APPENDIX I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any.)
United Africa Co. Ltd.	Wellington Street	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	—
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street	—

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR PUBLISHED	AGENT.	PRICE. £	s.	d.
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve	1912	Messrs. Smith Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London.	0	6	0
Report on the Agricultural conditions and needs of the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1921	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
Chronological Account of James Island & Albreda.	C. Gwyn	1921	do.	0	0	6
List of Plants collected in the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1922	do.	0	1	0
Vocabulary of the Mandingo Language together with an Addenda.	Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.B. (Oxon).	1924	do.	0	10	0
Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.	—	1926	Receiver General and Crown Agents for the Colonies.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper	1927	do.	0	3	0
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa.	Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	1931	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
A Short History of the Gambia.	W. T. Hamlyn	1931	do.	0	2	0
Annual General Report on the Gambia.	—	up to 1930	Receiver General, Bathurst, and Crown Agents.	0	1	0
Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia.	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Annual Blue Book of the Gambia.	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Annual Report, Agricultural Department.	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Annual Report, Education Department.	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Annual Report, Medical Department.	—	—	do.	0	5	0

GAMBIA WEST AFRICA

Scale 1:1000000

5 0 10 20 30 40 Miles

17° 16° 15° 14° N.

13°

SENEGAL

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

Cape St Mary

BATHURST

Barra

Illiassa

Bintang Karani

Kerewan

Kuntaur

Georgetown

Basse

Fatoto

Soungrougrou River

Casamance River

River Gambia

NORTH BANK PROVINCE

SOUTH BANK PROVINCE

MACCARTHY ISLAND DIVISION

UPPER RIVER PROVINCE

REFERENCE

DISTRICTS

1 Kombo St Mary
2 North Kombo
3 South "
4 Central "
5 East "
6 Foni Brefet
7 Bintang Karani
8 Foni Kansala
9 " Bondali
10 " Jarrel
11 Kiang West
12 Central Kiang
13 Eastern "
14 Western Jarra
15 Central "
16 Eastern "
17 Dunkunku Niamina
18 Western Niamina
19 Eastern "
20 Fulladu West
21 " East
22 Kantora
23 Wuli
24 Sandu
25 Sami
26 Niani
27 Nianija
28 Upper Saloum
29 Lower "
30 Upper Baddibu
31 Central "
32 Lower "
33 Jokadu or Joka
34 Upper Niumi
35 Lower Niumi

FERRIES

A Brumen Ferry
B Kerewan "
C Konkoba "
D Lamin-Kolo "
E Sankuli Kunda Ferry
F Bansang Ferry
G Basse "
H Fatoto "

TRUNK ROADS

Bathurst - Brumen Ferry
Barra - Illiassa
Illiassa - Brumen Ferry
Bantonding - French B'dry

PROVINCIAL HEAD QUARTERS

Cape St Mary
Kerewan
Georgetown
Basse

International Boundary
Provincial "
District "

17°W. 16° 15° 14°

376,766/A 303d.672.7/39.

Malby & Sons

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.
JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
UGANDA.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.
BRITISH TOGOLAND.
PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN.
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121. 9d. (10d.).

Fruit Supplies in 1930. (E.M.B. 38.) 1s. (1s. 3d.).

Changes in the Demand for Butter. (E.M.B. 39.) 1s. (1s. 1d.).

Report on Development of Agriculture in the Bahamas. (E.M.B. 40.) 1s. (1s. 2d.).

A Preliminary Report on an investigation into the Control of West Indian Insect Pests. (E.M.B. 42.) 1s. (1s. 5d.).

Recent Advances in Pasture Management. (E.M.B. 43.) 1s. (1s. 2d.).

Dairy Research. (E.M.B. 44.) 1s. (1s. 2d.).

Transport and Storage of Bananas with special reference to Chilling. (E.M.B. 45.) 1s. (1s. 2d.).

British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery. 2s. (2s. 2d.).

Wool Quality: A Study of the Influence of various contributory factors, their significance and the technique of their measurement. Cloth. £1 1s. (£1 1s. 9d.).

Australian and New Zealand Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the deterioration in transit of Imported Australian and New Zealand Fruit, 1927–30. (E.M.B. 46.) 1s. (1s. 2d.).

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THE GAMBIA, 1933

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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1933.

Chapter I. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

In the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th centuries the Arabs acquired and recorded a good deal of information about the interior of West Africa, but the cartography of Senegambia remained still a blank south of the Gezola or Gedala Tuareg of the Seguiet-el-Hamra (Wadi Targa) when the Genoese Giovanni di Caringnano made his planisphere in 1320.

In the 12th and 13th centuries, however, the numerous Jewish trading communities which traded mainly in gold from such centres as Tuat and Nul Lamta (Wadi Draa) south to Melli (Bambuk) and beyond, had acquired so much information about the Western Sudan and Sahara that the maps of the cartographers of Majorca as, for instance, the planisphere of Angelino Dulcert (Majorca) 1339 A.D., and that of the converted Jew Mecia de Viladestes 1413 A.D. show a considerable advance in recorded knowledge.

The latter shows Taghazza or Taodeni of the salt mines (the Tutek of the El Bekri) as Tutega, and also Tacrur, the country of the Tukulor, and for the first time the Gambia River is shown under the name "N'gelaka". To the North of the N'gelaka is a name Ude or Wude, also a country and cape called Abach as well as Ilsengar (the Senegal River). In the valley of the river N'gelaka, a place called Tegerut is shown, the name being probably akin to the name N'gelaka, both being derived from the Berber N'gel, N'gar, or N'gir with Berber ending -ek or -ik. Angelico Dulcert shows, to the south of the coast region called Abach, a people called Felle who are probably identical with the Ude of Viladestes, *i.e.*, Fulbe.

Though Phœnician sailors from Gadeira (Cadiz) are said to have traded down the West Coast of Africa, the first recorded European exploratory expedition to the Gambia by sea was that of the Genoese Antonio Usodimare, who, on the 12th December, 1455, wrote to his relatives that he had "gone 800 leagues further than any other Christian" and had navigated his 'caravel' as far as the Gamba (Gambia).

Usodimare had left Genoa about the time of the death of the King of Spain, John II of Castile in 1454, at a time when the Spaniards were busy protesting to the Pope against the Portuguese expeditions to Cape Bogador and beyond, but Usodimare's interests or sympathies led him to take back to Lisbon an envoy from a Gambian chief, and agree to make a second voyage to the Gambia as an envoy of the King of Portugal, Alphonso V.

In the letter above quoted, he remarks that he is to sail again in ten days from Lisbon. He also says that the envoy from the Gambian chief was a descendant of a Portuguese sailor who had been saved from one of the ships of the Vivaldi expedition which had been lost about 170 years before, *i. e.*, in 1285.

Usodimare related his adventures "in the land of Badomel" (*i.e.*, the land of the Bur Dunnel) to the Venetian Ca'da Mosto. The latter, on the 22nd March, 1455, set out on board a Portuguese 'caravel', supplied by Prince Henry the Navigator, to make further explorations in Senegambia. Ca'da Mosto records that the King of the Jolofs at this time "was called Zucholin". Ca'da Mosto disembarked at Cayor, "the palm beach of Bur Dunnel". At the town of the 'Bisboor', the nephew of the King, Ca'da Mosto was entertained. The Bur Dunnel was a professing Mohammedan at this time.

The Jolof Kingdom is said by Ca'da Mosto to have extended east as far as the country of the Fulbe and the Tukulor. South of the Kingdom of Joal and north of the Gambia was the country of the Barbasines. Their King lived in the interior in a fortified town called Jagaon (Jago) in place of the former Capital M'bissel in Sine west of Kaolack. Ca'da Mosto also disembarked on an island in the estuary of the Gambia which he called the Isle of St. Andrew after the christian name of a sailor who was buried there.

On proceeding further Ca'da Mosto was told that the country belonged to King Farisangal (Bur Senegal) a vassal of the Bur Melli.

Twenty leagues south of the Gambia (100 miles) Ca'da Mosto met the Casa Mansa, but before making this journey he records that he went 60 leagues (240 miles) "to the south" in the kingdom of the 'Battimansa'. The word 'south' however, here does not mean "directly south", but south east. The Battimansa was the king of the "Baddi-bu", between the Bintang Creek and Kantora. Almost at the same time as Ca'da Mosto's visit to the Gambia, it was visited by Diago Gomez who also mentions the 'Farisangal' (Bur Senegal). Guided by a certain Bucker (Bukr) Gomez visited Kantora. It was believed by these travellers that the Senegal and Gambia were two mouths of one river enclosing the "delta of the Nile of Gana". The two rivers are so shown on a Venetian map of that period.

According to Pacheco Pereira, the chief commercial centre of Kantora at this time was called Sutuku. The whole of the right bank of the Upper River was subject to the King of Melle (Bur Melle), the left bank presumably being the Kingdom of the Batti Mansa.

The trade route from Kaukau (Gao) to Kantora at this time passed Samanda (near Segu on the Upper Niger), Conmuberta (Galam), and Cereculi (Sarahulle), according to an informant of Gomez.

Gomez made a second expedition to the Gambia and visited Ulimansa (Mansa of Wuli) and then the Battimansa on the left bank with whom he made some kind of treaty.

The King of Nonymans (Niumi), who had hitherto been hostile, was also visited, and a treaty, "sealed by drinking the red and white wine of Portugal", was made.

In 1460 Gomez returned not to Niumi but to the 'Barbasines', neighbours of the Serreos (Sereres). The Bur Gebil (Jolof chief of the Griots) had just been defeated and pursued by the Burbak, (Jolof king) and had taken refuge at a port called Zaza (Albreda).

The voyages made by Ca'da Mosto and by Gomez established the trade supremacy of the Portuguese on the West Coast of Africa and they were able to maintain a monopoly for more than a century. An English expedition, fitted out in 1481 was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals".

The annexation of Portugal to Spain under Philip II in 1580 caused the decline of Portuguese maritime enterprise, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between and the trade of the hinterland.

In 1618 a Royal Charter was granted by King James I of England to an Association of London Merchants, entitled "The Company of Adventurers of London trading in Africa", with Timbuktu *via* the Gambia as their objective. George Thompson, who had travelled in the Barbary States, was despatched to the Gambia at the head of an expedition, with orders to ascend the river, then believed to be a tributary of the Niger, penetrate into the interior in the search for the Eldorado in Africa of that age, and enter into commercial relations with its ruler. He reached Kassang (Gassan), a Portuguese trading station, some 147 miles up the river, but during his absence inland his ship was captured and the crew murdered by the Portuguese. A relief ship was despatched from England, and Thompson, continuing his explorations, founded a settlement at Fatta Tenda, about 240 miles from the mouth of the river. He was afterwards killed in a quarrel with one of his company.

Richard Jobson then headed two expeditions sent out by the Company to find Thompson. During the second, Jobson sailed up to Fatta Tenda, where he succeeded in establishing friendly relations with the natives. He ascended the river in boats beyond the Barra Kunda rapids, prior to his final return to England. He was followed about 40 years later by Vermuyden, a Dutch explorer and merchant of Charles the Second's day.

In the year 1661 Captain (afterwards Admiral Sir Robert) Holmes, R.N., captured from the Duke of Courland's men the Isle of St. Andrew, on which was a small bastioned fort, mounting 8 guns of different calibres.

Captain Holmes re-named the fort in honour of the Duke of York, afterwards King James II of England and called it Fort James. In 1695 the French levelled it to the ground, but it was soon rebuilt, though again twice taken by the French in 1702 and 1709. During the years 1695 to 1697 the French held possession of it, and founded on the North Bank, opposite the island, the fortified settlement of Albreda, the site of which was purchased from the then King of Barra, an ancestor of Demba Sonko, who, in 1826, concluded with the British the Ceded Mile Treaty. By the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 the exclusive British rights to Fort James and the River Gambia were recognized by France in return for a similar recognition on the part of England of the French rights over Senegal, including the Island of Goree, which had been recaptured by British arms in 1759. Great Britain, however, retained the right to trade for gum with the Moors at Portendik, near Cape Blanco, and as a set-off the French retained their factory at Albreda. Territorial re-adjustments followed the Treaty of Paris in 1851, and again in 1857. The headquarters of the Royal African Company on the Gambia were graphically described by Francis Moore, a writer in the service of the Company, in 1730.

The same Company despatched Captain Bartholomew Stibbs in 1723 on a voyage up the Gambia. He was followed by Harrison in 1732, and, in turn, by Captain Leach, Captain Pyke, McHoughton, Captain Major, and many others, all of whom were engaged in trade, exploration, and the slave traffic.

In 1788 the African Association, since merged into the Royal Geographical Society, was formed under the presidency of Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, and further steps were taken to explore the interior. In 1791 Major Houghton ascended the river, travelled across the Kingdoms of Bambuk and Wuli, and then disappeared, having, it is thought, been murdered. In 1795, and again in 1805, the Association sent out Mungo Park to explore the River Niger. On the death of Park, the Upper Gambia was abandoned as a route to Timbuktu and the Niger.

Chartered Company administration was ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three

hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kunta-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mohammedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province, comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 42,134. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river-ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Dunkunku Niamina, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 38,492. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolofs and Mandinkos.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 65,462. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 47,636. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population: Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinka districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy though, with modern methods of sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1933.

CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches.)
January	76·1	61	—
February	78·1	50	—
March	80	53	—
April	78·1	53	—
May	76	63	—
June	79·1	68	3·07
July	79	76	16·20
August	78·1	80	13·20
September	80	76	5·23
October	80·1	72	5·21
November	74	56	0·37
December	68·1	42	—
		Total ...	43·28 inches.

In the Protectorate the records of rainfall were :—

North Bank Province	(Kerewan)	45·83 inches.
McCarthy Island Province	(Georgetown)	45·75 „
Upper River Province	(Wuli)	58·20 „
South Bank Province	(Cape St. Mary)	43·28 „

Chapter II. Government.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated) and also Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo all of which are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), some Official Members, including the Members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an "Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of "certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by "Commissioners", (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that "All "native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories which are "not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance "of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have "the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance". The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms :—

> "31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—
>
> (*a*) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace, and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description.
>
> (*b*) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner : or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate ;
>
> (*c*) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner's Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads "Every person employed

"by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order "lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a "person authorized to execute Process of the Supreme Court".

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail, are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than does the Protectorate Ordinance 1913 the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both Criminal and Civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules governing these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law existing under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Chief one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Chief's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a chief. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

The former system of advances of seed groundnuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a Rule under which every cultivator of ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, worked very well and resulted in an adequate supply of seed and a good export crop of ground-nuts.

Ample supplies of home-grown food-stuffs were also produced, and from the scheme there resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

Local Government. In 1931 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health was constituted in place of the former Board of Health for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst.

The Council, of which the Colonial Secretary is Chairman, is composed of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst, and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

An election for Ward Representatives is held every December, and meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the Town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the members of this Council both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.

Chapter III. Population.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the Town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows :—

Mandinko	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows :—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered).
1929	315	502	333
1930	366	411	283
1931	422	369	227
1932	339	355	242
1933	331	368	290

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burial permits being required in all cases), births of infants to parents, in particular to illiterate parents, are not registered. This would account for the comparatively large excess of deaths over births which have been registered from year to year.

It is likely, however, that registration of births will soon become more accurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

With regard to the Infantile Mortality Rate the figure given for 1933 is for the whole of Bathurst ; of the 331 births 82 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 82 infants 8 died within twelve months giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 98 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the general mortality rate of 290 for the whole of Bathurst.

Emigration and immigration.

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the commencement of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French Territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past three years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows :—851 in 1931, 634 in 1932 and 817 in 1933 ; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who :—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,

(*b*) is an idiot or insane,

(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,

(*d*) is a prostitute, or

(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount.

At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor not having become destitute or unable to support himself, departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health

The health of the inhabitants of the Gambia was on the whole satisfactory. Diseases of the Digestive and Respiratory systems remain the most prevalent there having been 4,606 cases of the former with 5 deaths and 3,108 cases of the latter with 42 deaths.

It is once more noticeable that respiratory complaints occur mostly during the relatively cold season, January to April, and digestive system complaints during the rains, June to October.

Malaria fever remains the most usual tropical complaint under treatment : in 1933 there were 811 cases with no deaths.

There are in the Protectorate one Hospital and two Dispensaries in charge of a Medical Officer and three Dispensers. From these centres prophylactic work is undertaken against all kinds of sickness including vaccination against small-pox.

In Bathurst there is an European and African general hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics, and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics. In addition there is a Public Health Service which attends to drainage and sanitary organisation.

There were no outbreaks of serious illness such as yellow fever, plague or small-pox during 1933.

Drainage and sand filling of depressions was much to the fore during the year and the reclamation of shallow, low-lying, tidal areas by sand and refuse was carried on with satisfactory results.

The Health Service continued operations against mosquito breeding. This work is both difficult and expensive owing to the existence of large numbers of land-crab holes which provide ideal hatching-out places for mosquitoes.

Chapter V. Housing.

There are no slums in Bathurst and the houses and compounds are well kept. There is some overcrowding at times during the "Trade Season" but not of a serious nature. All houses and compounds are periodically inspected by the Health Authorities and the Sanitary and Building Laws are enforced.

Houses are constructed of different kinds of material: for instance some are of wattle and daub, others of brick, others again of concrete bricks, and the most usual roofing is of corrugated iron.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of mud or wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. These houses are well suited to local conditions. There is no overcrowding since ample space is available for expansion. The houses and villages generally are well kept and sanitation is satisfactory. Periodical inspections of villages are made by Commissioners and Officers of the Medical Staff. In the Protectorate the houses are almost invariably built and owned by the occupants, and the same applies—though to a less extent—in Bathurst.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	47,636	20,509
South Bank Province	65,462	21,194
MacCarthy Island Province ...	38,492	23,765
Upper River Province	42,134	23,826
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst) ...	14,370	3,177

Chapter VI. Production.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of foodstuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Cotton is grown on a fairly extensive scale in some Provinces, particularly the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of coloured cloth. Experiments are being conducted in connection with the cultivation of crops under irrigation during the dry season.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	Tons.	£ Value.
1929	56,355	765,564
1930	74,761	867,634
1931	66,811	506,125
1932	37,315	391,659
1933	67,370	500,766

A small export trade is done in Palm Kernels, Hides and Wax. In 1933 the exports of these commodities were :—

			£
Palm Kernels	615 tons	value	4,199
Hides	21,202 lbs.	„	185
Wax	11,095 lbs.	„	272

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1933 some 1,900 head of

cattle are reported to have died of Rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

The prevalence of Rinderpest (Cattle Plague) has been for many years the great obstacle to the development of the cattle breeding industry in the Gambia. Each year this dread disease has taken heavy toll of the herds of the country and made impossible the successful rearing of stock. The question of finding a remedy for this state of affairs has been under consideration for some time and during April and May of 1933 the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria and the Veterinary Pathologist visited the country to investigate the situation and outline a scheme to deal with it. At the conclusion of their visit and as a result of their investigations an immunization scheme, extending over a period of 5 years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost will be made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was commenced in November when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December to assist in the preliminary work.

The results of the experiments carried out up to the end of the year indicate that it should be possible, without incurring an unduly high mortality, to immunize the cattle of the Gambia against rinderpest by the ordinary "Double Inoculation" method as employed in other West African Colonies, using locally prepared serum.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

There are no minerals of commercial value in the Colony nor are there any important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	597,161	529,985	250,311	292,700	435,902
Specie	20,691	12,775	2,302	5,141	13,966
Total ...	617,852	542,760	252,613	297,841	449,868

The following table shows the principal items of Imports from the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the year 1933.

Articles.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	France.	United States of America.	Other Countries	Total.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	8,720	...	486	119	6,547 *a*	...	15,872
Bags & Sacks	1,133	9,364	661	...	177	402,941 no.	11,335
Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ...	1,479	...	...	...	301	10,095 galls.	1,780
Biscuits, Bread and Cakes ...	1,127	...	937	...	25	1,259 cwt.	2,089
Boots, Shoes and Slippers	443	...	136	...	3,509 *b*	51,641 pairs	4,088
Cement ...	489	...	46	...	206	286 tons	741
Coal	4,458	...	...	...	...	1,701 tons	4,458
Cotton Piece Goods ...	102,313	...	3,794	370	28,924 *c*	7,476,028 sq.yds.	135,401
Cotton Manufactures (other)	12,960	449	1,307	...	8,058	...	22,774
Cotton Yarn ...	13,090	...	2,776	...	329	237,507 lbs.	16,195
Flour Wheaten	3,202	1,484	2,335	...	3	13,943 cwt.	7,024
Hats and Caps	1,136	...	2,533	...	3,055 *d*	...	6,724
Kola-Nuts ...	...	31,657	...	...	2	18,232 cwt.	31,659
Lumber ...	794	...	394	35	529	135,703sup.ft.	1,752
Medicines and Drugs ...	2,786	...	347	129	98	...	3,360
Metal all kinds	11,602	...	1,386	...	2,226	...	15,214
Motor Cars and Lorries ...	1,264	416	...	...	221	22 no.	1,901
Oils, Edible ...	4,386	2,121	223	...	1,817	86,817 galls.	8,547
Oils, not Edible	2,217	...	421	6,075	2,560	210,632 galls.	11,273
Rice	208	24,022	3,379	...	2,422	84,128 cwt.	30,031
Salt	38	..	..	...	1,854 *e*	1,197 tons	1,892
Soap	1,822	...	4,942	...	145	6,480 cwt.	6,909
Spirits, potable	1,586	...	195	...	108	2,059 galls.	1,889
Sugar	355	...	13,926	...	321	17,162 cwt.	14,602
Tea	726	92	82	...	1,016 *f*	21,860 lbs.	1,916
Tobacco ...	6,208	...	117	5,530	203	175,652 lbs.	12,058
Wines... ...	97	...	1,631	...	848 *g*	17,245 galls.	2,576

a. Including £5,038 from Japan
b. „ £2,342 from Japan and £921 „ Morocco
c. „ £17,810 from Japan
d. Including £2,406 from Germany
e. „ £1,849 „ Cape Verde Islands
f. „ £928 „ China
g. Including £678 from Spain

The percentages of Imports from all Countries, exclusive of Specie, were as follows :—

Country.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	34.42	34.39	37.73	51.02	50.34
British Possessions ...	10.69	11.11	14.45	15.07	16.66
Totals—British Empire	45.11	45.50	52.18	66.09	67.00
Denmark	—	—	—	00.22	00.35
France	39.65	29.75	24.52	14.75	11.63
Germany	02.63	03.68	3.67	01.53	01.87
Holland	—	01.76	1.78	01.40	00.95
Japan	—	—	—	—	06.33
U. S. A.	06.63	06.87	8.35	06.06	03.12
Other Countries ...	05.98	12.44	9.50	09.89	08.75

The following table shows the comparative prices per unit of the principal items of Imports for the last five years :—

Article.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	3 10. 1¾	2 14. 7½	2 12. 9	3 10. 10½	2 11. 9¾
Coal per ton	2 9. 10	2 8. 7	2 9. 1½	2 8. 11¾	2 12. 5
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yd.	0 0. 5¾	0 0. 6½	0 0. 5	0 0. 4	0 0. 4¼
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	0 16. 7¼	0 14. 11½	0 11. 11	0 12. 6¼	0 10. 1
Kola Nuts per cwt.	4 2. 1	3 14. 6	1 11. 8	1 10. 0	1 15. 3¼
Oils Edible per gall.	0 3. 8	0 2. 10¾	0 2. 5	0 2. 5¼	0 1. 11¾
Rice per cwt.	0 13. 6¼	0 12. 8	0 9. 3¾	0 9. 7½	0 7. 1¾
Salt per ton	1 6. 10½	1 9. 2	2 6. 6	1 13. 4¼	1 11. 7¼
Sugar per cwt.	0 19. 5¼	0 17. 1¼	0 17. 0	0 17. 2	0 17. 0¼
Tea per lb.	0 2. 3¾	0 2. 1	0 1. 6¾	0 1. 9	0 1. 9

Exports.

The Exports for the last five years including Specie were as follows :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	840,929	898,807	527,111	406,894	515,208
Specie	3,831	7,836	2,761	199,620	—
Total ...	844,760	906,643	529,872	606,514	515,208

The following table shows the principal items of Exports to the British Empire and Foreign Countries for the year 1933.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides.		Palm Kernels.	
	Tons.	Value.	No.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	23,902	171,057	—	—	269	2,022
British Possessions	320	2,163	—	—	—	—
France	24,735	195,277	1,281	175	—	—
Germany ...	4,245	29,201	—	—	229	1,373
Holland	11,151	79,757	—	—	77	562
Other Countries ...	3,017	23,311	80	10	40	242
Totals ...	67,370	500,766	1,361	185	615	4,199

The percentages of Exports to all Countries exclusive of Specie were as follows :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	15.18	19.35	03.83	20.66	34.06
British Possessions ...	03.64	01.96	00.82	00.89	01.23
Totals British Empire ...	18.82	21.31	04.65	21.55	35.29
Denmark	06.83	04.29	—	—	03.02
France	33.03	39.95	56.90	59.80	37.97
Germany	28.01	17.82	19.91	00.92	05.94
Holland	10.26	16.17	15.21	10.73	15.59
Other Countries ...	03.05	00.46	03.33	07.00	02.19

The following table shows the comparative prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	13. 10. 5	11. 12. 1	7. 11. 6	10. 9. 11	7. 8. 8
Hides per lb.	0. 0. $7\frac{1}{2}$	0. 0. $4\frac{1}{2}$	0. 0. $2\frac{3}{4}$	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 2
Palm Kernels per ton	13. 18. $5\frac{1}{2}$	10. 17. 3	8. 19. $9\frac{1}{2}$	7. 13. $8\frac{3}{4}$	6. 16. 6

Shipping.

The percentages of Shipping of various Nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	%	%	%	%	%
British	67.9	62.0	55.4	57.2	56.7
French	13.4	12.4	19.0	21.8	20.3
Dutch	2.8	3.0	4.3	2.7	2.5
German	5.4	5.7	3.3	4.6	8.0
Norwegian...	3.3	5.6	—	3.0	4.6
American	4.9	5.5	4.8	5.7	1.9
Italian	—	—	1.8	—	1.0
Swedish	1.2	3.0	7.2	4.9	3.3
Danish	—	—	2.9	—	0.3
Other Countries	1.1	2.8	1.3	0.1	1.4

Chapter VIII. Wages and Cost of Living.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives from French Territory enter Bathurst to obtain employment, whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

Rates of pay.

The rates of pay for artisans such as Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Fitters, Masons, and Painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day (8 hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) those on a monthly wage,
(*b*) those on a daily wage, and
(*c*) farm labourers.

(*a*) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in most cases, a monthly issue of 45 lbs. of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (e.g. sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/9 to 2/6 a day. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

(*b*) Daily wage labourers receive from 1/- to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(*c*) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crop is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local natives, each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subjects referred to above.

Cost of living.

In the Protectorate, rice and guinea-corn form the staple diet of the people, whilst a considerable amount of bread, sugar, salt and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer. The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows:—

Rice or corn	...	...	...	3*d.*
Bread	...	...	...	1*d.*
Fish	...	...	...	1*d.*
Oil	...	...	...	1*d.*
Sugar	...	...	...	½*d.*
Condiments	...	...	...	½*d.*
Total		...	...	7*d.*

Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1*d*.

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/- a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for himself is rather less than that in Bathurst.

The prices of foodstuffs are generally lower than those obtaining before the war. The following table gives some examples:—

	1933	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	24/6	33/-
Salt do. 66lbs.	2/6	1/6
Flour do. 98lbs.	14/3	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	2/10	4/-
Sugar per lb.	3*d*	5½*d*

Cost of living. European Government Officials.

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst:

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Firewood	9
Electric Light	10
Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc.)	40
Provisions and Wines	125
Tobacco	10
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme contribution	24
Miscellaneous expenditure including equipment	35
Total	£335

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

Chapter IX. Education and Welfare Institutions.

Education in the Gambia is controlled by the Board of Education of which the Governor is the President. The Members of the Board include the members of the Legislative Council, the Superintendent of Education and such other members, not exceeding six in number, as may be appointed by the Governor. The nominated members hold office for a period of not more than three years and they include representatives of the three Missions, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist, which operate in the Gambia. The powers of the Board are defined in the Education Ordinance (No. 14 of 1903). Briefly, the Board is empowered to dispose annually of such sum as the Legislative Council has granted for the promotion of Education and to make regulations respecting grants-in-aid to assisted schools, the conduct of schools generally, the award of scholarships and other matters connected with the Education Ordinance. Such Regulations, after approval by the Governor-in-Council, come into operation as from the date on which they appear in the *Gazette*.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, and the department is administered by the Superintendent of Education, a duty post held by an Administrative Officer. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

Elementary and Secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants, and Government also maintains a Mohammedan School in Bathurst, and a Manual Training Centre under the Public Works Department. There is no University education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which, in 1933, had a total of 1,719 pupils on the registers (1,174 boys and 545 girls) and an average attendance of 974.5. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst, two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Methodist Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1933 were 64 boys and 89 girls with average attendances of 53 and 69 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1933 there were 14 students on the register.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with 37 on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools which would have only a local effect. The Methodist Mission maintains a small day school in Georgetown, and the Anglican Mission two day schools (unassisted) in the Protectorate.

A Committee was appointed in 1932 to draw up a revised syllabus for use in the Bathurst elementary schools. The new syllabus, after approval by the Board of Education, came into use on the 1st January, 1934, and will considerably assist educational progress in the Gambia.

The Education Rules, 1917, were amended during the year in respect of the award of attendance and proficiency grants and of grants for the training of teachers, (Rule No. 13 of 1933). Other amendments were also made in consequence of the introduction of the new syllabus. (Rule No. 22 of 1933).

The following examinations were held during the year: London Matriculation Examination: Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary Examinations: Higher Standard Mandinka Examination: Clerical Services Examination: Elementary Schools Annual Examination: African Service Language Examinations (Jolof and Mandinka).

Welfare Institutions, etc.

Free medical treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreation, etc.

In Bathurst, Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground is under construction in Half Die, Bathurst. Organised games are conducted by the schools who are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and Cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once every week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public. These concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter X. Communications and Transport.

External.

For mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs Elder Dempster Lines Ltd. There is a regular monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

Harbour of Bathurst.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep-water harbour. Anchorages offshore vary from 9 to 14 fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. There is sufficient water at the entrance for vessels of 27 feet draft to enter the Harbour.

The "T." Head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 16 feet alongside. There are eleven other wharves which are from 100 to 200 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1¾ hours after high and low water by the shore: their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream considerable swirls sometimes occur at springs during, and immediately after, the rainy season.

The harbour approaches are well lighted by a Light Vessel, buoys, and lighthouse structures.

Internal.

River Transport.

The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels, of not more than 12 feet draft, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kunta-ur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draft of 20 feet. Vessels not exceeding 6 feet 6 inches in draft can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

***Roads*:—**

There are four Trunk Roads:

No. 1. Bathurst-Jeshwang-Abuko-Lamin-Yundum-Brikama-Kafuta-N'Demban-Bwiam-Brumen Ferry. (90¾ miles).

No. 2. Barra-Berrending (Bantanding)-Dasilami-Kerewan Ferry-Saba-Banni-N'Jakunda-Illiassa. (62 miles).

No. 3. Illiassa-Katchang Ferry-Konkoba-Kwinella-Jataba-Brumen Ferry. (22½ miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French Boundary. (2½ miles).

No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on Trunk Road No. 2) to the French Boundary. (¾ mile).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa via Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kunta-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the Secondary Road on the South Bank running from Kwinella, (on Trunk Road No. 3). to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary and feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows:—

North Bank Province	...	...	116 miles
South Bank Province	...	...	95 „
MacCarthy Island Province		...	280 „
Upper River Province	...	...	200 „

Marine Department.

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government Steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons). Two Government Lighters, "Vampire" (170 tons) and "Jean Maurel" (174 tons) are also available for additional cargoes.

The Steamers call at 26 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles), and 31 ports when calling at Fattoto (288 miles). This ensures communication with all ports in the Protectorate twice weekly during the trade season from November to May. A fortnightly or monthly service is maintained for the remainder of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows:—

	1931	1932	1933
Passengers carried ...	11,980	9,233	9,125
Cargo (tons) ...	2,409	1,311	4,403
Revenue from passenger traffic ...	£4,232	£3,134. 1. 10.	£3,036. 0. 0.
Revenue from freight ...	£3,712	£2,413. 14. 3.	£3,787. 7. 6.

The figures show an increase of freight carried owing to the larger groundnut crop in 1933.

The refitting of Government Steamers and of Vessels belonging to firms was carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross—the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for Harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries.

Passenger and vehicular ferries have been installed by Government in connection with the road system at the following points :—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)
Katchang—Konkoba (Road No. 3)
Brumen (Connecting Roads Nos. 1 & 3)
Lamin Koto—MacCarthy Island
Sankuli Kunda—MacCarthy Island
Bansang, Kunchan Creek, Basse, Fattoto. — continuation of Road No. 2.

There is also a small passenger ferry at Bali in the Jawara Creek.

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1933.

Postal Services.

Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of Postal business is transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post & Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kunta-ur. The latter office is closed during the rainy season (June to October).

The total number of letters, postcards, papers etc., dealt with during 1933 was 171,104—an increase of 17,192 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 4,000 as compared with 3,397 in 1932. In addition, 641 small postal packets were dealt with.

Letters received by the Dakar-Toulouse Air Mail numbered 600 the number despatched from Bathurst being practically nil. This was due to no suitable connection by sea from Bathurst to Dakar.

Money & Postal Order Statistics are as follows:—

	1932	1933
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	26,396	28,892
Revenue derived from Money Orders	151	164
Postal Orders issued & paid	5,448	6,518
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	44	52

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1933 was £1,591 as compared with £1,575 in 1932.

Telephone Service.

A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and Cape St. Mary, the total number of subscribers, exclusive of extensions, being 76. The total value of the service was £540, of which amount £382 represented the value of free service to the Government Departments.

Wireless Service.

There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia but internal communication is maintained by four Wireless Stations established at Bathurst, Kunta-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The Station at Bathurst has a range of 1000 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the Wireless Service in 1933 was £950 including £425 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1932 were £772 and £360, respectively.

Chapter XI. Banking, Currency, Weights & Measures.

Bank.

The only Bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Post Office Savings Bank, the rate of interest being 2½ per cent per annum.

Currency.

The currency is British West African alloy and nickel-bronze coins of denominations 2/-, 1/-, 6d, 3d, 1d, & ½d; and British West African Currency Notes of 20/- & 10/- denominations (French five-franc pieces which were formerly in circulation were demonetised in 1922).

Stocks of Currency are held on behalf of the West African Currency Board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required, against payment in London.

The value of the Notes in circulation on the 31st December 1933 was £218,936 as compared with £215,436 on the 31st December 1932 whilst Alloy Coins to the value of £259,872 were in circulation at the end of 1933 as against £221,372 at the end of the previous year.

Weights and Measures.

Standard Weights and Measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial Measures of Capacity, Length and Surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance of 1902 and are kept by Government. The Commissioner of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of all the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the Annual Estimates and for the maintenance of all Government Buildings and property entrusted to the Department.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen, and two African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of two Accountants and nine African Clerks.

In addition to the above-mentioned works the Department operates the Electric Light and Power Services comprising some 42 miles of distribution mains, the Ice making Plant, the Albert Market Refrigerating Plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the Fire Protection Plant and the Government Motor Transport Service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and also the main road from Bathurst through St. Mary's Island to Kombo St. Mary, together with certain trunk roads in the Protectorate.

Activities during 1933.

(*a*) Maintenance. (Expenditure £11,797).

Bathurst Water Supply.

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1933 amounted to 46,013,000.

The rates charged are as follows :—

General water rate—(1½% on rateable value).
Water supply rate for services to private premises—£2 per annum.
Water supply to vessels—1/4 per 100 gallons.
Water supply by meter for business or private premises—1/6 per 1,000 gallons.
Washing out ground nut stores—£2 10/- per hour.

Revenue.

General water rate Water supply rate	...	...	£930 5 1
Water supplied to vessels	...	...	125 2 11
Water supplied by meter	...	...	3 7 0
Washing out ground nut stores		...	19 3 4
			£1,077 18 4

In addition, the value of water supplied to Government Departments amounted to £209 0*s.* 0*d.*

Expenditure.

Excluding the emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1933 on the maintenance of the Water Supply service amounted to £1,684 5*s.* 3*d.*

Electric Light and Power Services.

A continuous 24 hours' service was maintained. During the year a total of 350,569 Board of Trade units were generated as follows :—

No. 1 Generator	25	K. W.	Capacity	...	23,720
„ 2 „	50	„	„	...	92,745
„ 3 „	100	„	„	...	118,744
„ 4 „	100	„	„	...	115,360
					350,569

Maximum load on generator 66 K.W. ·99 P.F.

Load factor 41·68 per cent.

Units generated for the year show a decrease of 6,340 on last year's working.

The value of the supply of electrical energy during the year amounted to £7,744 whilst the cost of maintenance (exclusive of permanent staff) was £2,033.

The rates charged are :—

Lighting, 9*d.* per unit (minimum charge 7/6 and 10/- per month).
Domestic, 3*d.* „ „ 2/6 per month.
Power, 6*d.* „

and contract rates fixed by agreement.

Free services included the lighting of streets, Government House, the Hospital, Government Wharf, Government Offices, and the Government Wireless Station.

Ice Plant.

	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
The quantity of ice manufactured amounted to	49	8	0	0
The quantity of ice sold amounted to ...	47	10	0	20

Cash sales realized £350 whilst the value of ice supplied to the Victoria Hospital and the Health Department was £93 0. 0.

The cost of production, exclusive of interest, depreciation of plant and buildings and supervising staff was £223 0. 0.

Albert Market Refrigerating Plant, Bathurst.

Approximately 122 tons of meat passed through this plant during the year, the running hours averaging 5·7 hours a day. 7,337 units were consumed.

General.

Other re-current items included the maintenance of Foreshore protection works, sluice gates, cemeteries etc.

(*b*) CONSTRUCTION, ETC. (Expenditure £26,701, including Colonial Development Fund Schemes).

The principal works carried out during the year included :—

Further reclamation work at the Lasso Wharf area and sand filling in the Cotton Street area,

The installation of an electrically operated pumping plant at the Victoria Embankment to reduce flood level in that district,

The installation of three new sluice gates,

Concrete sheet piling driven along the foreshore of the reclaimed area to the South and West of the Victoria Embankment,

The erection of a new Government petroleum store on the Lasso Wharf area,

The provision, for the Agricultural Department, of new Headquarters in the MacCarthy Island Province,

The completion of nineteen concrete-lined wells in the Kombo and three in Upper Saloum Districts.

Colonial Development Schemes.

These schemes are being carried out partly from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund and partly from Loan funds.

Trunk Road No. 1. The Scheme for development of roads in the Kombo, revised estimate £22,400, was continued.

The gravel road from Jeshwang to Sukuta was completed and treated with spraymex. Culverts were placed in the bed of the Sandhu Stream and the timber bridge was replaced with an earth causeway. The road formation was completed from Kanifi to Brikama, and gravelling was started. The total expenditure to December 31st, 1933 was £17,699.

The scheme for the renewal of the gravity main from the Reservoir at Cape St. Mary to the Town of Bathurst was carried out and nearly completed. The revised estimated cost of this work is £15,600 and the total expenditure to December 31st, 1933 was £15,440.

The scheme for the reconditioning of the Government wharf at Bathurst is estimated to cost £12,000. Part of the material was ordered from the United Kingdom. It is proposed to commence this work in March, 1934.

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice. The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1905. It is presided over by a Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. In practice, its work is mainly confined to divorce and dowry among the Mohammedans. The proceedings are conducted in Mandinka or Jolof but a summarised record is made in Arabic. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Bathurst Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court which is a Subordinate Court of the First Class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 7), pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £200.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a great variety of matters is conferred by a large number of local Ordinances.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. Several Europeans and Africans, both Christians and Mohammedans, are on the list of Justices of the Peace for the Colony. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the Second Class and may under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8) pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £50.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the First Class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction, and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners. The procedure is summary and the general object of the Court is the collection of small debts speedily and cheaply. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England.

It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from the subordinate courts, the Judge reviews all criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals in the Colony and the Protectorate. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate if necessity arises.

The Colonial Courts, i.e. the Supreme Court, the Bathurst Police Court, the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court have the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as they possess in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

The Protectorate Courts are the Native Tribunals established in each District, under the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, presided over by native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan Law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, the rights of parents and guardianship when the parties are both Mohammedans, and the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a native tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades as follows :—

Grade A.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by nine months imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine.
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £50.

Grade B.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by six months imprisonment or a fine of £10 or both such imprisonment and fine.
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £25.

The Commissioner of the Province has wide powers of control and revision over the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

In addition to the Native Tribunals there is the Provincial Court, established under the Subordinate Courts Ordinance, 1933 and presided over by a Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissioner, it is a Subordinate Court of the First Class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q. v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides, the Court is a Subordinate Court of the Second Class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q. v.). The civil jurisdiction of Provincial Courts is the same as the Court of Requests (q. v.). An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court.

Coroner's Court:

A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioners.

Judicial Staff:

There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty-six Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi, and approximately two hundred members of Native Tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees.

Juvenile Offenders and Probation:

There are very few juvenile offenders brought before the Courts. The imposition of imprisonment is avoided as far as possible and, when imposed, special prison arrangements are made. The Court has power to place first offenders on probation, but there is no regular probation system with paid probation officers.

Fines and Sentences:

Time is practically always given for the payment of fines. Corporal punishment is practically never imposed by any Court, Colonial or Protectorate. With regard to the Protectorate, all sentences of more than 14 days imprisonment must be served in Bathurst gaol.

Crime:

There has been no increase in the amount of crime during the year. In the Colony 454 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 478 persons in 1932. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 935 persons as compared with 942 persons in 1932.

The number of criminal informations filed in the Supreme Court was 8.

Statistics for the year 1933.

Criminal.

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	8	5	—	3
Police Court ...	454	85	5	364
Protectorate Courts:—				
North Bank Province ...	153	14	—	139
South Bank Province ...	292	17	—	275
MacCarthy Is. Province	285	34	1	251
Upper River Province ...	255	37	2	218

Civil.

Supreme Court	...	...	19 cases
Mohammedan Court	...	...	131 cases
Court of Requests	...	...	1,438 cases.

POLICE.

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Commissioner of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent of Police and the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of an Inspector of Police, two Sub-Inspectors and 120 other ranks, including 24 Band personnel.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of Weights and Measures, traffic control, fire-fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Pathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

Maintenance of Law and Order.

Statistics.

	1932.	1933.
Cases dealt with	447	417
Prosecutions conducted	317	271
Convictions obtained	272	242
Inquest summonses served ...	8	16
Warrants executed	9	4
Summonses and Subpoenas served ...	738	799

Issue of Licences.

Motor Vehicle ...	...	313	306
Dog	...	91	69
Firearms	...	288	364
Domestic Servant ...	...	280	384
Motor Driver ...	...	397	413
Liquor	...	14	17
Entertainment ...	...	27	15

Traffic Control.

Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Bureau.

The Bureau, which was organised in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and Measures are dealt with in Chapter XI.

Relations with the Public.

Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.

Being an armed force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instruction :—

Law and general police duties.
Observation training.
Traffic control.
Physical training.
Infantry drill.
Musketry.
Fire Drill.

Health.

The health of the Force during 1933 was good.

Band.

The public concerts given weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

PRISON.

In the Gambia there is only one Prison which is situated on St. Mary's Island in a good position. The buildings which were formerly used as an isolation hospital were converted into a Prison in 1920. They are of solid construction, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three Association Wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out-houses. The Warders are accommodated close to the Prison.

Staff.

The Staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Commissioner of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Commissioner of Police), an African Chief Warder and twenty-three other African Warders.

Health.

The Prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1933 was good, the daily average number of sick being .56 per cent of the average daily number in the Prison.

Visiting Committee.

The Prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present Committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Land Officer and an African Member of the Bathurst Urban District Council. In addition, all the Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the Prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.

On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to Prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.

Very few females are committed to Prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of Prisoners.

In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking etc., the prisoners are also employed on minor public work under the supervision of Warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and during 1933, 10,950 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.

The discipline during 1933 was good, only twenty-five offences being recorded. Three prisoners escaped but were recaptured.

Admissions and Discharges.

	1932.	1933.
Admissions	312	286
Discharges	315	246
Average daily number of prisoners ...	70.98	57.21

Chapter XIV. Legislation.

During 1933 twenty-six Ordinances were enacted.
The only Ordinances which call for any comment are:—

The Native Authority Ordinance—setting up Native Authorities in the Protectorate with power to make Orders governing a variety of matters for the well-being of natives in the area of the Authority.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance—establishing a system of Native Tribunals in the Protectorate, presided over by Native Members only and having jurisdiction only over natives. The extent of their jurisdiction is defined in the Warrant establishing them.

The Subordinate Courts Ordinance—establishing Provincial Courts in the Protectorate presided over by a Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner with original criminal and civil jurisdiction and powers of revision over the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

The Labour Ordinance—regulating the employment of women and children and young persons in certain industrial undertakings and giving effect to various International Conventions.

The Criminal Code—establishing a Code of Criminal Law.

The Criminal Procedure Code—making provision for the procedure to be followed in criminal cases.

The Rates Ordinance—making detailed provision for the assessment and the collection of rates in the Town of Bathurst.

The Protectorate Markets Ordinance—making full provision for the establishment of markets in the Protectorate and conferring powers on Native Authorities to make bye-laws for their management and general supervision.

Chapter XV. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years was:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1924	£208,613	£203,635
1925	189,086	271,836
1926	214,181	213,643
1927	252,419	277,625
1928	255,385	250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015
1933	231,787	180,161

Development Loan.

On the 1st February, 1933, the Crown Agents for the Colonies arranged a loan for the purpose of meeting part of the cost of development works undertaken in the Colony, viz:—Improvement of roads, water supply and wharf.

The amount of stock issued was £38,759 13 9 at £97 bearing 3½ per cent interest per annum. The loan is redeemable in 30 years and a sinking fund contribution is made at the rate of 1·9 per cent per annum. At the close of the year the sum of £12,611 1 0 remained undisbursed and the sinking fund stood at £643 12 6.

Assets.

(*a*) Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1933	...	£126,652
(*b*) Reserve Fund	...	67,207
(*c*) Steamer Depreciation Fund ...	...	13,898
		£207,757

Taxation.

The main sources of Revenue from taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows:—

Customs Import Duties.	1929 £	1930 £	1931 £	1932 £	1933. £
Ad valorem	14,510	12,509	7,522	18,588	18,480
Specific:—					
Kola Nuts	24,973	24,471	22,319	29,294	33,528
Kerosene & Petroleum	3,469	4,291	2,678	2,600	4,789
Soap ...	646	712	451	—	—
Spirits ...	4,856	4,911	2,587	2,463	2,461
Tobacco ...	12,264	11,492	9,954	10,821	14,704

	£	£	£	£	£
Wines ...	2,776	2,840	2,080	1,623	2,194
Other Articles	4,332	3,553	7,503	8,030	36,979
Rice ...	—	—	—	7,984	9,893
Parcel Post	857	839	572	517	524
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-nuts	55,733	74,309	66,321	18,520	33,609
Total Customs Duties.	£124,396	£139,927	£121,987	£100,440	£157,161
Port Dues	4,355	4,042	2,959	2,324	2,773
Yard Tax	11,665	11,073	10,179	8,370	14,187
Trade Licences	3,662	2,413	2,360	1,968	3,111
Other Licences Liquor & Motor Car etc.	2,454	2,594	1,911	2,135	1,883
TOTAL	£146,532	£161,049	£139,396	£115,537	£179,115

Customs Tariff.

In the course of the year the assessment of duties on Cotton Goods and Rubber Canvas Footwear was changed from an *ad valorem* to a specific basis. A few minor alterations were also made in certain tariff rates.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

There are no Excise Duties. The revenue collected in 1933 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £145.

Yard Tax.

Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed:—

(*a*) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses 5/-

(*b*) For every additional Hut or House in the yard 1/6

(*c*) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier 2/-

(*d*) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land ... 8/-

The Revenue from this tax during the last five years has been as follows:—

	£
1929	11,666
1930	11,073
1931	10,179
1932	8,370
1933	14,187

Chapter XVI. Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are performed in regard to lands held under lease from Government, the revision and preparation of plans, valuations of properties and the assessment of rates for the Town of Bathurst, etc.

Grants and Leases of public land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 21 years.

Plots at the various trading centres in the Protectorate, or "Wharf Towns" as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the Town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10/- per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2. 10. 0. per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £6,685 for the year 1933, whilst £153 was received in respect of fees for subletting and surveys. In 1932 the rents and rates amounted to £7,905 and the fees for subletting and surveys to £117. Expenditure was £1,841 in 1933 as compared with £1,875 in 1932.

Activities During 1933.

Surveys.

Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

The revision survey for a new edition of the plan of the Town of Bathurst was continued.

The South-Eastern boundary of the Royal West African Frontier Force Cantonments at Cape St. Mary was defined.

Road survey work was done in the Kombo in connection with the preparation of a plan showing the road from Bathurst to Lamin waterworks.

Plans.

167 plans were prepared in connection with lands granted or leased Plans were drawn in the records of the Colonial Registry, as required.

Various plans and sun-prints were made for Departmental use and for the Commissioners.

A plan was prepared for the Colonial Report on the Gambia for 1932.

Copies of plans of the Aeroplane Landing Ground were made for the Air Ministry and for the Officer Commanding the Gambia Company Royal West African Frontier Force, and for the Royal Air Force, Middle East, Cairo.

A plan of Bathurst showing Wards with the plots laid out on the reclaimed area at Half-Die was prepared for the use of the Commissioner of Police.

A plan was prepared showing the road connecting Bathurst with Cape St. Mary and some of the roads in Kombo St. Mary as far as the Lamin waterworks.

Grants and Leases.

Forty-five grants and leases were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.

The Rating List for 1933 was completed early in the year and that for 1934 was prepared for public inspection. The Rates Ordinance No. 16 of 1933 was passed in April, and the Rates Ordinance 1912 was repealed. Provision is made in the 1933 Ordinance for the appointment of Valuing Assessors to assess the annual values of premises in Bathurst. An annual Rates Assessment Committee is also appointed.

The Land Officer & Surveyor was the Chairman of the Rates Assessment Committee in 1933.

Miscellaneous.

The Land and Survey Department supplied the Public Works Department throughout the year with the correct local time for regulating public clocks.

Valuations of properties in Bathurst were made for the Curator of Intestate Estates.

Chapter XVII. Miscellaneous.

Experimental flights by the Deutsche Luft Hansa Company were carried out in 1933 with a view to the establishment of an air base at Bathurst in connection with the air mail service from Stuttgart to Port Natal (Brazil) via Cadiz, Las Palmas and Bathurst. Several visits were paid to Bathurst by the Luft Hansa catapult-ship "Westfalen", which was stationed in mid-Atlantic, in connection with the experimental flights.

Three Vickers Victoria aircraft of the Royal Air Force visited Bathurst from Egypt during November on a West African Cruise, and spent nine days in the Gambia.

A visit was also paid to Bathurst in November by a Latvian airman.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindberg arrived in the Gambia at the end of November and stayed for five days in Bathurst before flying to Port Natal (Brazil).

Appendix I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any.)
United Africa Co. Ltd.	Wellington Street	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	—
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street	—

Appendix II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR PUBLISHED	AGENT.	PRICE £	s.	d
History of the Gambia	H. C. Reeve, C.M.G.	1912	Messrs. Smith Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London.	0	6	0
Report on the Agricultural conditions and needs of the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1921	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
Chronological Account of James Island & Albreda	C. Gwyn	1921	do.	0	0	6
List of Plants collected in the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1922	do.	0	1	0
Vocabulary of the Mandingo Language together with an Addenda.	Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.B. (Oxon).	1924	do.	0	10	0
Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.	—	1926	Receiver General Bathurst and Crown Agents for the Colonies.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper	1927	do.	0	3	0
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa.	Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	1931	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
A Short History of the Gambia.	W. T. Hamlyn	1931	do.	0	2	0
Annual General Report on the Gambia.	—	up to 1930	Receiver General, Bathurst, and Crown Agents.	0	1	0
Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia.	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Annual Blue Book of the Gambia.	—		do.	1	0	0
Annual Report, Agricultural Department.			do.	0	5	0
Annual Report, Education Department.			do.	0	2	0
Annual Report, Medical Department.			do.	0	5	0

GAMBIA WEST AFRICA

Scale 1:1000000

5 0 10 20 30 40 Miles

17° 16° 15° 14°

N. 14°

13°

SENEGAL

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

Cape St Mary

BATHURST

Barra

Illiassa

Georgetown

Kuntaur

Basse

Fatoto

Soungrougrou River

Casamance River

REFERENCE

DISTRICTS

1 Kombo St. Mary
2 North Kombo
3 South "
4 Central "
5 East "
6 Foni Brefet
7 Bintang Karani
8 Foni Kansala
9 " Bondali
10 " Jarrol
11 Kiang West
12 Central Kiang
13 Eastern "
14 Western Jarra
15 Central "
16 Eastern "
17 Dunkunku Niamina
18 Western Niamina
19 Eastern "
20 Fulladu West
21 " East
22 Kantora
23 Wuli
24 Sandu
25 Sami
26 Niani
27 Nianija
28 Upper Saloum
29 Lower "
30 Upper Baddibu
31 Central "
32 Lower "
33 Jokadu or Joka
34 Upper Niumi
35 Lower Niumi

FERRIES

A Brumen Ferry
B Kerewan "
C Kenkeba "
D Lamin-Kote "
E Sankuli Kunda Ferry
F Bansang Ferry
G Basse "
H Fatoto "

TRUNK ROADS

Bathurst – Brumen Ferry ——
Barra – Illiassa - - - - -
Illiassa – Brumen Ferry —·—·—
Bantonding – French B'dry — —

PROVINCIAL HEAD QUARTERS

Cape St. Mary
Kerewan
Georgetown
Basse

International Boundary —·—·—
Provincial " ——·——
District " ——·——

17°W. 16° 15° 14°

734,979 A 3247,675, 8/34.

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Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

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Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s.* (4*s.* 4*d.*).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT.

Report of the Overseas Settlement Committee for the period 1st April, 1932, to 31st March, 1933. [Cmd. 4391.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932.
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

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Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Fifth Annual Report, 1932–33. [Colonial No. 86.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

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Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

WEST INDIES.

Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

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Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

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Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).
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(For Reports for 1932 and 1933 see Nos. 1616 and 1664 respectively (Price 2s. each).)

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Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3234.] 6*s*. (6*s*. 5*d*.).
Report of Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit to East Africa, 1929. [Cmd. 3378.] 9*d*. (10*d*.).
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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1934.

Chapter I. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried: and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the facts that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "egreja") near Kansala in Foni, Biatang and Fankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Scuko near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Philip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barke, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals".

Letters patent conferring *(inter alia)* the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Nerico. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who also made his way up to the Nerico. Notwithstanding the fact that Jobson in his "The Golden Trade" gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia, the patentees, who had been involved by these trading ventures in considerable losses, did not further prosecute the exploration of the Gambia but confined their attentions to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barracunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the nephew and godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Cape St. Mary), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Cape St. Mary. During the next eight years a very flourishing trade was carried on between the Gambia and Courland. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of

the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18, 1661, he sailed up to St Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1672 the Royal Adventurers sold their forts and factories to the Royal African Company, which was incorporated in that year by royal charter.

In 1678 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1686 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1856.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1703, and 1709, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1720 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort by stratagem and held it to a ransom of two thousand pounds. An even more serious

disaster occurred in the following year, when the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Major John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's ships themselves turned pirate. Finally in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's "Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa." Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on a trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves — the consequence of which was that they were obliged to call in their outfactors on the continent.....By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Superintendent of Trade was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company.

In 1787 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was purchased by the British government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1791), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1795 James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fatteconda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association, to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars the British were in possession of St. Louis and Goree, but it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that these places should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the very extensive traffic in slaves, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels in the River Gambia, the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On April 23, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In the following year the King of Kombo made a similar cession of territory on the south bank. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement

for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan, mission. Further cessions of other tracts of land near the mouth of the river and also further upstream were obtained in subsequent years. In 1856 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance, but these boundaries were not actually surveyed until 1905-06 when a Boundary Commission carried out the work.

In the meantime despite a number of petty wars the Gambia government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fulladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to but merely placed under the protection of the British government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos,

Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mohammedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province, comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 42,523. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river-ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dankunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 37,542. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 67,417. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 28,000. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinka districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy though, with modern methods of sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1934.

CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches.)
January	68·7	45	—
February	68·5	51	—
March	69·2	55	—
April	70·6	62	—
May	71·1	79	—
June	75·4	71	1·04
July	77·7	72	6·37
August	77·2	80	25·22
September	74·9	75	8·39
October	77·0	68	1·19
November	74·5	56	—
December	72·0	54	—
		Total ...	42·21 inches.

Other records of rainfall were :—

Bathurst		44·91 inches.
McCarthy Island Province	(Yoro Biri Kunda)	31·03 „
Upper River Province	(Wuli)	49·97 „

Chapter II. Government.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated) and also Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo all of which are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), some official Members, including the Members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an "Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of "certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by "Commissioners", (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that "All "native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories which are "not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance "of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have "the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance". The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms :—

> "31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—
>
> (*a*) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace, and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description,
>
> (*b*) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner ; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate ;
>
> (*c*) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner's Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads "Every person employed

"by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order "lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a "person authorized to execute Process of the Supreme Court."

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail, are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headmen) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than does the Protectorate Ordinance 1913 the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules governing these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law existing under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a chief. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

The former system of advances of seed groundnuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a Rule under which every cultivator of ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Ample supplies of home-grown food-stuffs are now being produced, and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

Local Government. In 1931 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health was consitituted in place of the former Board of Health for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst.

The Council, of which the Colonial Secretary is Chairman, is composed of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst, and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

An election for Ward Representatives is held every December, and meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the members of this Council both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.

Chapter III. Population.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows :—

Mandinko	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only, as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows :—

Year.	Births.	Birth Rate per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered).
1930 ...	366	3·8	411	4·3	283
1931* ...	422	2·9	369	2·5	227
1932 ...	339	2·3	355	2·4	242
1933 ...	331	2·3	368	2.5	290
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burial permits being required in all cases), in some instances births of infants, in particular to illiterate parents, are not reported.

It is likely, however, that registration of births will soon become more accurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

* 1931 Census year showed a large increase of population.

With regard to the infantile mortality rate the figure given for 1934 is for the whole of Bathurst : of the 351 births 92 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 93 infants 12 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 129 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the general mortality rate of 265 for the whole of Bathurst.

Emigration and immigration.

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the commencement of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows :—851 in 1931, 634 in 1932, 817 in 1933 and 530 in 1934 ; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who :—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,

(*b*) is an idiot or insane,

(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,

(*d*) is a prostitute, or

(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount.

At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself, departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health.

The health of the inhabitants of the Gambia was fairly satisfactory; but trypanosomiasis appears to be increasing judging by the numbers of patients presenting themselves for treatment.

Diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems remain the most prevalent in Bathurst, there having been 3,925 cases of the former with 15 deaths and 3,525 cases of the latter with 31 deaths.

It is once more noticeable that respiratory complaints occur mostly during the relatively cold season, January to April, and the digestive system complaints during the rains, June to October.

Malaria fever remains the most usual tropical complaint under treatment: in 1934 there were 934 cases with 3 deaths in Bathurst.

There are in the Protectorate one hospital and two dispensaries in charge of a Medical Officer and three Dispensers. From these centres prophylactic work is undertaken against all kinds of sickness including vaccination against small-pox.

In Bathurst there is a European and African general hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics. In addition there is a Public Health Service which attends to drainage and sanitary organisation.

There was an outbreak of yellow fever in Bathurst during the months of October—December. Complete details cannot be given until the results of various investigations at present being carried out at the Wellcome Research Institute are known, but 4 European and one native deaths took place, and one native recovered. Undoubtedly other native cases were not diagnosed as yellow fever.

There were no outbreaks of plague or small-pox in 1934.

Drainage and sand filling of depressions were continued during the year and the reclamation of shallow, low-lying, tidal areas by sand and refuse is proceeding.

The Health Department continued operations against mosquito breeding. This work is both difficult and expensive owing to the existence of large numbers of land-crab holes which provide ideal hatching-out places for mosquitoes.

Chapter V. Housing.

There are no slums in Bathurst and the houses and compounds are well kept. There is some overcrowding at times during the "trade season" but not of a serious nature. All houses and compounds are periodically inspected by the Health Authorities and the sanitary and building laws are enforced.

Houses are constructed of different kinds of material: for instance some are of wattle and daub, others of brick, others again of concrete bricks, and the most usual roofing is of corrugated iron.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. These houses are well suited to local conditions.

There is no overcrowding since ample space is available for expansion.

The houses and villages generally are well kept and sanitation is satisfactory. Periodical inspection of villages is made by Commissioners and officers of the Medical Staff.

In the Protectorate the houses are almost invariably built and owned by the occupants and the same applies—though to a less extent—in Bathurst.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	48,000	22,861
South Bank Province	67,417	28,048
MacCarthy Island Province ...	37,542	25,101
Upper River Province	42,523	26,283
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	3,177

* Census figures 1931.

Chapter VI. Production.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of foodstuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Cotton is grown to some extent particularly in the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of cloth. Experiments are being conducted in connection with the cultivation of crops under irrigation during the dry season.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	Tons.	£ Value.
1930	74,761	867,634
1931	66,811	596,125
1932	37,315	391,659
1933	67,370	500,766
1934	71,919	387,345

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1934 the exports of these commodities were :—

			£
Palm Kernels	553 tons	value	2,712
Hides	141,511 lbs.	,,	1,978
Wax	59,826 lbs.	,,	1,404

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualities from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1934 some 4,299 head of cattle are reported to have died of

rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

During April and May of 1933 the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria and the Veterinary Pathologist visited the country to investigate the situation and outline a scheme to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of their visit and as a result of their investigations an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was commenced in November 1933 when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary Officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and MacCarthy Island Provinces.

Although the scheme is still in its infancy it is apparent that the cattle owners readily appreciate the value of immunization and are quick to take advantage of it, and the success of the scheme is assured.

Rinderpest has been in the past the great obstacle to the development of the cattle breeding industry, but effective control of this disease is in sight and it is anticipated with confidence that in the near future the industry will be restored to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

There are no minerals of commercial value in the Colony nor are there any important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	529,985	250,311	292,700	435,902	326,175
Specie	12,775	2,302	5,141	13,966	4,326
Total ...	542,760	252,613	297,841	449,868	330,501

The following table shows the principal items of imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1934.

Articles.	United Kingdom	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries	Total.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	4,760	15	5,090 *a*	—	9,865
Bags and Sack ...	1,137	5,000	346	239,930 no.	6,483
Boots, Shoes and Slippers ...	323	17	2,231	29,153 prs.	2,571
Coal	2,714	—	286	1,732 tons.	3,000
Cotton Piece Goods	37,312	—	20,269 *b*	3,207,321 sq.yds.	57,581
Cotton Manufactures (other) ...	8,956	158	3,621	—	12,735
Cotton Yarn ...	7,153	4	1,491	123,792 lbs.	8,648
Flour Wheaten ...	2,753	1,418	2,107	14,218 cwts.	6,278
Hats and Caps ...	650	41	3,394	—	4,085
Kola-Nuts ...	—	28,432	15	20,659 cwts.	28,447
Metal (all kinds)	11,686	—	3,545	—	15,231
Motor Vehicles ...	1,858	1,038	1,566	44 no.	4,462
Oils, edible ...	4,137	—	68	50,172 galls.	5,705
Oils, not edible ...	1,579	—	10,045 *c*	261,872 „	11,624
Rice	—	28,983	414	84,646 cwts.	29,397
Soap	1,939	—	1,694	4,516 „	2,633
Sugar	429	—	7,385 *d*	9,746 „	7,814
Tobacco ...	5,172	610	2,258	98,398 lbs.	8,040

(*a*). Including £3,660 from Japan.
(*b*). „ 8,319 „ „
„ 6,642 „ Russia.
(*c*). „ 7,907 „ U. S. America.
(*d*). „ 6,542 „ France.

The percentages of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

Country.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	34.39	37.73	51.02	50.34	42.43
British Possessions ...	11.11	14.45	15.07	16.66	22.32
Total—British Empire	45.50	52.18	66.09	67.00	64.75
France	29.75	24.52	14.75	11.63	9.06
Other Countries	24.75	23.30	19.16	21.37	26.19
Total Foreign Countries	54.50	47.82	33.91	33.00	35.25

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of imports for the last five years :—

Article.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	2 14. 7½	2 12. 9	3 10. 10½	2 11. 9½	2 6. 0
Coal per ton	2 9. 7	2 9. 1½	2 8. 11½	2 12. 5	1 11. 8
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yd.	0 0. 6½	0 0. 5	0 0. 4	0 0. 4¼	0 0. 4¼
Cotton Yarn per lb.	0 1. 6¼	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 4½	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 4¾
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	0 11. 11½	0 11. 11	0 12. 6¼	0 10. 1	0 8. 10
Kola Nuts per cwt.	3 11. 6	1 11. 8	1 10. 9	1 13. 3½	1 7. 6½
Oils Edible per gall.	0 2. 10¾	0 2. 5	0 2. 5	0 1. 11¾	0 2. 3½
Rice per cwt.	0 12. 8	0 9. 3¾	0 9. 7	0 7. 1¾	0 6. 11¼
Salt per ton	1 9. 2	2 6. 6	1 13. 4	1 11. 7¼	1 12. 5
Sugar per cwt.	0 17. 1¼	0 17. 0	0 17. 2	0 17. 0¼	0 16. 0½
Tea per lb.	0 2. 1	0 1. 6¾	0 1. 5	0 1. 9	0 1. 8½

Exports.

The exports for the last five years including specie were as follows :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	898,807	527,111	406,894	515,208	401,849
Specie	7,836	2,761	199,620	—	53,900
Total ...	906,643	529,872	606,514	515,208	455,749

The following table shows the principal items of exports to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1934.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides.		Palm Kernels.	
	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	8,185	39,776	33,636	449	194	1,033
British Possessions	327	1,721	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	4,133	23,120	—	—	—	—
Denmark ...	4,324	25,377	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	86,257	1,172	—	—
Germany ...	37,696	199,190	21,618	357	296	1,337
Holland	17,085	97,440	—	—	63	342
Other Countries ...	169	761	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	71,919	387,345	141,511	1,978	553	2,712

The percentages of British and foreign exports, exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	19.35	03.83	20.66	34.05	11.26
British Possessions ...	01.96	00.82	00.89	01.23	01.14
Total British Empire ...	21.31	04.65	21.55	35.29	12.40
France	39.95	56.90	59.80	37.97	00.00
Germany	17.82	19.91	00.92	05.94	50.09
Holland	16.17	15.21	10.73	15.59	24.34
Other Countries ...	04.75	03.33	07.00	5.21	13.17
Total Foreign Countries ...	78.69	95.35	78.45	64.71	87.60

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	11. 12. 1	7. 11. 6	10. 9. 11	7. 8. 8	5. 7. 9
Hides per lb.	0. 0. 4¼	0. 0. 2¾	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 3
Palm Kernels per ton	10. 17. 3	8. 19. 9½	7. 13. 8¾	6. 16. 6	4. 18. 1

Shipping.

The percentages of shipping of various nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	%	%	%	%	%
British	62.0	55.4	57.2	56.7	53.31
French	12.1	19.0	21.8	20.3	12.57
Dutch	3.0	4.3	2.7	2.5	1.71
German	5.7	3.3	4.6	8.0	20.54
Norwegian...	5.6	—	3.0	4.6	3.96
American	5.5	4.8	5.7	1.9	3.93
Italian	—	1.8	—	1.0	0.37
Swedish	3.0	7.2	4.9	3.3	2.34
Danish	—	2.9	—	0.3	0.37
Other Countries	2.8	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.90

Chapter VIII. Wages and Cost of Living.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives from French territory enter Bathurst to obtain employment, whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

Rates of pay.

The rates of pay for artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths, fitters, masons, and painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day (8 hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows:—

(*a*) those on a monthly wage,
(*b*) those on a daily wage, and
(*c*) farm labourers.

(*a*) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in most cases, a monthly issue of 45 lbs. of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (e.g sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/9 to 2/6 a day. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

(*b*) Daily wage labourers receive from 1/- to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(*c*) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crop is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local natives, each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subjects referred to above.

Cost of living.

In the Protectorate, rice and guinea-corn form the staple diet of the people, whilst a considerable amount of bread, sugar, salt and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer. The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows:—

Rice or corn	...	...	...	3*d.*
Bread	...	...	...	1*d.*
Fish	...	...	...	1*d.*
Oil	...	...	...	1*d.*
Sugar	...	...	...	½*d.*
Condiments	...	...	...	½*d.*
Total		...	...	7*d.*

Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1*d*.

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/- a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for himself is rather less than in Bathurst.

The prices of foodstuffs are generally lower than those obtaining before the war. The following table gives some examples :—

	1934 (average)	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	21/-	33/-
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/2	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	14/6	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/-	4/-
Sugar per lb.	-/3	5½*d*

Cost of living. European Government Officials.

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst :

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Firewood	9
Electric Light	10
Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc.)	40
Provisions and Wines	125
Tobacco	10
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme contribution	24
Miscellaneous expenditure including equipment	35
Total	£335

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

Chapter IX. Education and Welfare Institutions.

Education in the Gambia is controlled by the Board of Education of which the Governor is the President. The Members of the Board include the members of the Legislative Council, the Superintendent of Education and such other members, not exceeding six in number, as may be appointed by the Governor. The nominated members hold office for a period of not more than three years and they include representatives of the three Missions, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist, which operate in the Gambia. The powers of the Board are defined in the Education Ordinance (No. 14 of 1903). Briefly, the Board is empowered to dispose annually of such sums as the Legislative Council has granted for the promotion of education and to make regulations respecting grants-in-aid to assisted schools, the conduct of schools generally, the award of scholarships and other matters connected with the Education Ordinance. Such Regulations, after approval by the Governor-in-Council, come into operation as from the date on which they appear in the *Gazette*.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, and the department is administered by the Superintendent of Education, a duty post held by an Administrative Officer. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

Elementary and secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants, and Government also maintains a Mohammedan School in Bathurst and a Manual Training Centre under the Public Works Department. There is no university education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which, in 1934, had a total of 1,609 pupils on the registers (1071 boys and 538 girls) and an average attendance of 952. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst, two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Methodist Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1934 were 50 boys and 84 girls with average attendances of 42 and 67 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1934 there were 9 students on the register.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with 43 on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools which would have only a local effect. The Methodist Mission maintains a small day school in Georgetown, and the Anglican Mission two day schools (unassisted) in the Protectorate.

A committee was appointed in 1932 to draw up a revised syllabus for use in the Bathurst elementary schools. The new syllabus, after approval by the Board of Education, came into use on the 1st January, 1934, and has it is hoped considerably assisted educational progress in the Gambia.

The Education Rules, 1917, were amended during 1933 in respect of the award of attendance and proficiency grants and of grants for the training of teachers, (Rule No. 13 of 1933). Other amendments were also made in consequence of the introduction of the new syllabus, (Rule No. 22 of 1933).

The following examinations were held during the year: London Intermediate; Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination; Elementary Schools Annual Examination; African Service Language Examinations (Jolof and Mandinka).

Welfare Institutions, etc.

Free medical treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreation, etc.

In Bathurst Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground is to be constructed in Half Die, Bathurst. Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once every week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public. These concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter X. Communications and Transport.

External.

For mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines Ltd. There is a regular monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government during the latter part of the year entered into an agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and the United Kingdom. This company operates a service weekly during the period September to March and fortnightly during the other months.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Port Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Stuttgart—Marseille—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Port Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The Luft Hansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, the catapult ship "Schwabenland", four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Port Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and airplanes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only. The Graf Zeppelin did not call at the intermediate ports.

The outward mail closes in Berlin on Saturday evening and arrives in Bathurst on Monday; the mail is then transferred to the catapult ship "Schwabenland", which proceeds to sea for 36 hours and on Wednesday morning catapults the flying boat which arrives at Port Natal on Wednesday evening.

The homeward mail plane leaves Port Natal Thursday noon on board the catapult ship "Westfalen" which proceeds to sea and catapults the plane on Saturday morning. The latter arrives in Bathurst on Saturday afternoon. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which starts from Bathurst on Saturday night and arrives in Berlin on Monday afternoon.

Harbour of Bathurst.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages offshore vary from 9 to 14 fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except

during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. There is sufficient water at the entrance for vessels of 27 feet draft to enter the harbour.

Government Wharf is under re-construction: the wooden decking is being replaced by ferro-concrete, underwater piles are being refitted, and an up-to-date system of rails installed with two 2½ ton petrol electric cranes. The "T" head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 16 feet alongside. There are eleven other wharves which are from 100 to 200 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1¾ hours after high and low water by the shore; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream considerable swirls sometimes occur at springs during, and immediately after, the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well lighted by a light vessel, buoys, and lighthouse structures.

Internal.

River Transport.

The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than 12 feet draft, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntau-ur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draft of 20 feet. Vessels not exceeding 6 feet 6 inches in draft can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

Marine Department.

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons). Two government lighters "Vampire" (170 tons) and "Jean Maurel" (174 tons) are also available for additional cargoes; the latter will be self-propelled in 1935.

The steamers call at 26 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles), and 31 ports when calling at Fattoto (288 miles). This ensures communication with all ports in the Protectorate twice weekly during the trade season from November to May. A fortnightly or monthly service is maintained for the remainder of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows :—

	1932	1933	1934
Passengers carried ...	9,233	9,125	7,791
Cargo (tons) ...	1,311	4,403	5,391
Revenue from passenger traffic ...	£3,134. 1. 10.	£3,036. 0. 0.	£2,795. 12. 7.
Revenue from freight ...	£2,413. 14. 3.	£3,787. 7. 6.	£3,709. 10. 1.

The decrease in freight and passengers may to a certain extent be attributed to the quarantine restrictions in November and December—the commencement of the 1934—1935 trade season.

The refitting of Government steamers and of vessels belonging to firms was carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross—the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries.

Passenger and vehicular ferries, installed by Government in connection with the road system plied at the following points :—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)
Katchang — Konkoba (Road No. 3)
Brumen (connecting Roads Nos. 1 & 3)
Lamin Koto — MacCarthy Island
Sankulikunda — MacCarthy Island
Bansang
Kunchau Creek
Basse
Fattoto. } continuation of Road No. 2.

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1934.

Roads.

There are four trunk roads :

No. 1. Bathurst–Jeshwang–Abuko–Lamin–Yundum–Brikama–Kafuta–N'Demban–Bwiam–Brumen Ferry. (90¾ miles).

No. 2. Barra-Berrending (Bantanding) -Dasilami-Kerewan Ferry-Saba-Banni-N'Jakunda-Illiassa. (62 miles).

No. 3. Illiassa-Katchang Ferry-Konkoba-Kwinella-Jataba-Brumen Ferry. (22½ miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French boundary: (2½ miles).

No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on trunk road No. 2) to the French boundary. (¾ mile).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa, via Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the south bank running from Kwinella, (on trunk road No. 3). to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary and feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows:—

North Bank Province	116 miles
South Bank Province	95 ,,
MacCarthy Island Province ...	280 ,,
Upper River Province	200 ,,

Postal Services.

Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The Kuntau-ur office is closed during the rainy season (June to October).

The total number of letters, postcards, papers etc., dealt with during 1934 was 189,015—an increase of 17,911 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,469 as compared with 3,400 in 1933. In addition, 696 small postal packets were dealt with.

Little use was made of the airmail service via Dakar and Toulouse owing to the irregular steamship communication between Bathurst and Dakar, but considerable advantage was taken of the airmail service inaugurated by the Deutsche Luft Hansa A. G. in November: the number of letters received and despatched in the two months of operation being 1,330 and 1,049 respectively.

Money & Postal Order statistics are as follows :—

	1933	1934
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	28,892	16,881
Revenue derived from Money Orders	164	121
Postal Orders issued & paid	6,518	6,465
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	52	53

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1934 was £1,536 as compared with £1,591 in 1933.

Telephone Service.

A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and at Cape St. Mary, the total number of subscribers, exclusive of extensions, being 76. The total value of the service was £533, of which amount £382 represented the value of free service to the Government Departments.

Wireless Service.

There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia but internal communication is maintained by four wireless stations established at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The station at Bathurst has a range of 1000 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the wireless service in 1934 was £834 including £316 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1933 were £950 and £425, respectively.

Telegraph Cables.

The Eastern Telegraph Company Ltd., has a station in Bathurst and cables run to Sierra Leone to the south and St. Vincent to the north.

Chapter XI. Banking, Currency, Weights & Measures

Bank.

The only Bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Post Office Savings Bank, the rate of interest being 2½ per cent per annum.

Currency.

The currency is British West African alloy and nickel-bronze coins of denominations 2/-, 1/-, 6d, 3d, 1d, & ½d; and British West African currency notes of 20/- & 10/- denominations. (French five-franc pieces which were formerly in circulation were demonetised in 1922).

Stocks of currency are held on behalf of the West African currency board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required, against payment in London.

The value of the notes in circulation on the 31st December 1934 was £224,434 as compared with £218,936 on the 31st December 1933 whilst alloy coins to the value of £218,672 were in circulation at the end of 1934 as against £259,872 at the end of the previous year.

Weights and Measures.

Standard weights and measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial measures of capacity, length and surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance of 1902 and are kept by Government. The Commissioner of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the annual Estimates and for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen, and two African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of two Accountants and nine African Clerks.

In addition the Department operates the electric light and power services comprising some 42 miles of distribution mains, the ice making plant, the Albert Market refrigerating plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the fire protection plant and the Government motor transport service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and also the main road from Bathurst through St. Mary's Island to Kombo St. Mary, together with certain trunk roads in the Protectorate.

Activities during 1934.

(*a*) Maintenance. (Expenditure £12,186).

Bathurst Water Supply.

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1934 was 47,601,000.

The rates charged are as follows:—

General Water Rate	...	...(1½% on rateable value.)
Water supply rate	...	... £2 per annum.
Supply rate to vessels	...	... 1/4 per 100 gallons.
Meter rate ...	...	... 1/6 per 1000 gallons.
Washing out ground nut stores		£2. 10/- per hour.

Revenue 1934:—

General rate	...	...	£655 0 0
Supply rate	...	...	178 0 0
Supply to vessels	...	...	140 19 8
Meter rate	...	...	3 2 7
Washing out groundnut stores		...	12 11 8
			£989 13 11.

624,075 gallons were supplied to the R. W. A. F. F. at Cape St. Mary, 816,543 gallons to the Prison, 686,250 gallons to the Agricultural Station at Cape St. Mary, and 432,790 for cooling purposes at the Market, making a total of 2,559,658 gallons of the value of £191 19*s.* 6*d.*

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1934 on maintenance of the water supply amounted to £1,809.

Electric Light and Power Services.

The Power Station is situated in the centre of the town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of four solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators, 2 x 100 K. W., 1 x 50 K. W., and 1 x 25 K.W. Total 275 K.W.
System A.C. 3 Phase 4 wire 50 periods. Consumers voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.
Feeder and distributors overhead cable.
Number of private consumers 212, an increase of 12 over 1933.
Supply commenced June 1926.
Total units generated 1934, 352,877.
Maximum load recorded 103 K.W. at .95 P.F.
Total connected load 497 K.W. approximate increase of 15 K.W.
Total motors connected 254 H.P.
Public lighting 346 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some 9½ miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 30 K.V.A. transformer at the north end of the town—the voltage being stepped-up to 3,300 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Cape St. Mary 8 miles away, where it feeds a 15 K.V.A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about 2 miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1934 were as follows:—

(*a*) Units sold			67,298
(*b*) Ice Factory			7,166
(*c*) Public Services, Street Lighting	96,720		
(*d*) ,, ,, Wireless Station	1,901		
(*e*) ,, ,, Post Office	2,709		
(*f*) ,, ,, Hospital	20,398		
(*g*) ,, ,, Clinics	9,223		
(*h*) ,, ,, Prison	2,947		
(*i*) ,, ,, Market	7,368		
(*j*) ,, ,, Police Station	4,452		
(*k*) ,, ,, Pumping, Half Die	2,348		
(*l*) ,, ,, Marine Department	12,756		
(*m*) ,, ,, P. W. D.	11,389		
(*n*) ,, ,, Printing Department	1,239		173,450
(*o*) Government free services			26,950
(*p*) Power Station, (auxiliaries and lighting)			60,078
(*q*) Lost in distribution (meters, transformers etc.)			17,935
Total units generated			352,877.

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1934 on maintenance amounted to £2,212.

Ice Factory.

The Public Works Department also run and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to 34½ tons. A falling off in sales for the past year or so has been due to the installation of between 35 and 40 refrigerators by private consumers.

Market Cold Store.

A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 363 tons of meat passed through this storage last year.

Fire Protection Booster.

A fire protection plant is installed at the Power Station where a reserve of 150,000 gallons of water is stored. Two Merryweather pumps are used for boosting up the main water supply of the town in case of fire. The two pumps can be driven either electrically or by a petrol-paraffin engine.

(*b*) Construction, etc. (Expenditure £18,084).

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

Reclamation work at the Lasso Wharf area and drains in Perseverance Street, Lancaster Street, and Sam Jack Terrace	£396
Half Die area, excavation of drainage basin and forming embankments and roads	£994
Erection of block of seven cubicles, Police Lines	£224
Erection of X Ray room, Victoria Hospital	£160
Erection of boat shed, Marine Department Yard	£142
Erection of school room for R. W. A. F. F.	£118
Erection of squash racket court	£230
Denton Bridge, abutments	£127

Colonial Development Schemes.

These schemes are being carried out partly from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund and partly from Loan Funds.

The scheme for the development of the road to Brikama *via* Lamin and Yundum was continued and the gravel surfacing and bitumen dressing was extended to mile 17. The total expenditure to December 31st, 1934 was £22,400 (plus £300 from Colony funds).

The scheme for the renewal of the gravity main supplying water to the town of Bathurst was completed, the total expenditure to 31st December, 1934, being £15,600.

The scheme for re-conditioning the Government Wharf at Bathurst was commenced in May on the arrival of a European Diver and Foreman Erector and excellent progress has been made. By the end of December nearly all the underwater structure had been overhauled and new struts, ties, walings etc. put in. The steel troughing deck replacing the old timber deck was laid over three quarters of the surface and the tram lines and crane track had been received. Total expenditure to 31st December, 1934, £8,043. 12. 2d.

Anti-malaria and anti-yellow fever measures.

During December the removal of rain water tanks, gutters and downpipes from all Government buildings and the construction of incinerators for the destruction of town refuse were begun.

The Health Service (Medical Department) was provided with transport to meet the emergency and the Public Works Department also gave assistance in other directions chiefly in cutting down diseased and hollow trees.

Ten large cotton and seven hundred and eighteen ficus and other trees were felled and cut up for removal.

It is anticipated that this work will be carried on continuously during 1935.

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court, the Coroner's Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1905. It is presided over by a Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Bathurst Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court which is a Subordinate Court of the first class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 7), pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £200.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a variety of matters is conferred by a number of local Ordinances.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the second class and may under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8) pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £50.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the first class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners, who are Justices of the Peace. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England. It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from

the Subordinate Courts, the Judge reviews criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate if necessity arises.

The Colonial Courts, i.e. the Supreme Court, the Bathurst Police Court, the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court have the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as they possess in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

The Protectorate Courts are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals. These latter were established in each District by the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, constituted by native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, the rights of parents and guardianship when the parties are both Mohammedans, and the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a Native Tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades with the following jurisdiction :—

Grade A.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by nine months imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine.
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £50.

Grade B.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by six months imprisonment or a fine of £10 or both such imprisonment and fine.
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £25.

The Commissioner of the Province has wide powers of control and revision over the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Subordinate Courts Ordinance, 1933 and are presided over by a Commissioner, or an Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissioner, they are Subordinate Courts of the first class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q.v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides the Court is a Subordinate Court of the second class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q.v.). The civil jurisdiction of Provincial Courts is the same as the Court of Requests (q.v.). An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court.

Coroner's Court.

A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioners.

Judicial Staff.

There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty-seven Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi, and approximately two hundred members of Native Tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees.

Crime.

There has been a slight increase in the amount of crime during the year. In the Colony 498 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 454 persons in 1933. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 1,327 offences as compared with 985 offences in 1933. In addition the Bathurst Police Court also dealt with 730 rating cases.

The number of criminal informations filed in the Supreme Court was 23.

Statistics for the year 1934.

Criminal.

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	23	12	—	11
Police Court ...	498	79	17	402
Provincial Courts :—				
North Bank Province ...	110	30	—	80
South Bank Province ...	17	—	5	12
MacCarthy Is. Province	35	1	3	31
Upper River Province ...	43	2	2	39
Native Tribunals :—				
North Bank Province ...	138	3	—	135
South Bank Province ...	216	17	—	199
MacCarthy Is. Province	230	6	—	224
Upper River Province ...	538	33	—	505

Civil.

Supreme Court	...	...	29 cases
Mohammedan Court	...	...	124 „
Court of Requests	...	...	1,396 „
Provincial Courts	...	...	110 „
Native Tribunals	...	...	1,001 „

POLICE.

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Commissioner of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent of Police and the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of an Inspector of Police, two Sub-Inspectors and 120 other ranks, including 24 Band personnel.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of weights and measures, traffic control, fire-fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

Maintenance of Law and Order.

Statistics.

		1933.	1934.
Cases dealt with	... ...	417	504
Prosecutions conducted	... ...	271	369
Convictions obtained	... ...	242	340
Inquest summonses served	...	16	16
Warrants executed	... ...	4	24
Summonses and Subpoenas served	...	799	1,279

Issue of Licences.

Motor Vehicle	...	...	306	299
Dog	... ...	...	69	98
Firearms	... ...	...	364	118*
Domestic Servant	...	...	384	494
Motor Driver	...	...	413	461
Liquor	... ...	...	17	14
Entertainment	...	...	15	18

* Bathurst only.

Traffic Control.

Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Bureau.

The Bureau, which was organised in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and Measures are dealt with in Chapter XI.

Relations with the Public.

Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.

Being an armed force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instruction :—

Law and general police duties.
Observation training.
Traffic control.
Physical training.
Infantry drill.
Musketry.
Fire drill.

Health.

The health of the Force during 1934 was good.

Band.

The public concerts given weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

PRISON.

In the Gambia there is only one prison which is situated on St. Mary's Island in a good position. The buildings which were formerly used as an isolation hospital were converted into a prison in 1920. They are of solid construction, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three association wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out-houses. The warders are accommodated close to the prison.

Staff.

The Staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Commissioner of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Commissioner of Police), an African Chief Warder and twenty-three other African warders.

Health.

The prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1934 was good, the daily average number of sick being .44 per cent of the average daily number in the prison.

Visiting Committee.

The prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Land Officer and an African Member of the Bathurst Urban District Council. In addition, all Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.

On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.

Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of Prisoners.

In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking etc. the prisoners are employed on minor public work under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1934, 10,950 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.

The discipline during 1934 was good, only three offences being recorded. One prisoner escaped but was recaptured.

Admissions and Discharges.

	1933.	1934.
Admissions	286	284
Discharges	246	223
Average daily number of prisoners.	57.21	50.68

Chapter XIV. Legislation.

During 1934 twenty-six Ordinances were enacted.
The only Ordinances which call for any comment are :—

The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance—introducing the quota system in the importation of certain textiles which are the manufacture of foreign countries.

The Evidence (Foreign, Dominion and Colonial Documents) Ordinance,—making provision with respect to the admissibility in evidence in the Gambia of entries contained in the public registers of other countries and with respect to the proof by means of duly authenticated official certificates of entries in such registers and in consular registers.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance.—authorizing the imposition of differential duties in respect of the goods of foreign countries, when a special duty is considered desirable.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance.—This is self explanatory.

The Forced Labour Ordinance—regulating the exaction of labour which is forced or compulsory labour, within the meaning of a Convention concerning forced or compulsory labour adopted by the International Labour Conference at Geneva on the 28th June, 1930, and confirmed and approved by His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council on the 12th May, 1931, and other kinds of labour.

The Moneylenders Ordinance—making provision with respect to persons carrying on business as moneylenders.

The Criminal Evidence Ordinance—dealing with the competency and compellability of husbands and wives as witnesses when either spouse is charged with certain offences.

The Arms and Ammunition (Amendment) Ordinance—conferring powers on the Governor to prohibit by Proclamation the dealing in and exportation of arms, ammunition or warlike stores.

The Repatriation of Convicted Aliens (Amendment) Ordinance—enabling any Court to recommend for repatriation an alien convicted before it of any offence in respect of which such Court has power to impose imprisonment without the option of a fine.

Chapter XV. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years were :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1925	£189,086	£271,836
1926	214,181	213,643
1927	252,419	277,625
1928	255,385	250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015
1933	231,787	180,161
1934	221,564	174,663

Development Loan.

On the 1st February, 1933, the Crown Agents for the Colonies arranged a loan for the purpose of meeting part of the cost of development works undertaken in the Colony viz:—improvement of roads, water supply and wharf.

The amount of stock issued was £38,759 13 9 at £97 bearing 3½ per cent interest per annum. The loan is redeemable in 30 years and a sinking fund contribution is made at the rate of 1·9 per cent per annum. At the close of the year the sum of £2,967 remained undisbursed and the sinking fund stood at £1,419.

Assets.

(*a*) Surplus of Assets over Liabilitis on 31st December, 1934 ...	£173,553
(*b*) Reserve Fund	70,198
(*c*) Steamer Depreciation Fund	15,563
	£259,314

Taxation.

The main sources of Revenue from taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows:—

Customs Import Duties.	1930 £	1931 £	1932 £	1933 £	1934. £
Ad valorem	12,509	7,522	18,588	18,480	8,392
Specific:—					
Kola Nuts	24,471	22,319	29,294	33,528	38,559
Kerosene & Petroleum	4,291	2,678	2,600	4,789	6,151
Soap ...	712	451	—	—	—
Spirits ...	4,911	2,587	2,463	2,461	3,430
Tobacco ...	11,492	9,954	10,821	14,704	8,974

	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ...	—	—	—	—	2,695
Cottons ...	—	—	—	—	14,273
Wines ...	2,840	2,080	1,623	2,194	1,353
Other articles	3,553	7,503	8,030	36,979	12,515
Rice ...	—	—	7,984	9,893	9,120
Parcel Post	839	572	517	524	492
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-nuts	74,309	66,321	18,520	33,609	35,666
Total Customs Duties.	£139,927	£121,987	£100,440	£157,161	£141,620
Port Dues	4,042	2,959	2,324	2,773	2,768
Protectorate Taxes	11,073	10,179	8,370	14,187	13,638
Trade Licences	3,413	2,360	1,968	3,111	3,195
Other Licences Liquor, Motor Car etc.	2,594	1,911	2,435	1,883	2,126
Town Rates	2,511	2,386	2,584	2,057	2,242
TOTAL	£163,560	£141,782	£118,121	£181,172	£165,589

Customs Tariff.

A few minor alterations were made in certain tariff rates.

Excise and Stamp duties.

There are no Excise duties. The revenue collected in 1934 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £127.

Yard Tax.

Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed:—

(*a*) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses 5/-

(*b*) For every additional Hut or House in the yard 1/6

(*c*) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier 2/-

(*d*) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land ... 8/-

Chapter XVI.—Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are performed in regard to lands held under lease from Government, the revision and preparation of plans, valuations of properties and the assessment of rates for the town of Bathurst, etc.

Grants and leases of public land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grant and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 21 years.

Plots at the various trading centres in the Protectorate or "Wharf Towns" as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10/- per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2 10 0 per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £7,154 for the year 1934, whilst £198 were received in respect of survey fees. In 1933 the rents and rates amounted to £6,685 and the fees for subletting and surveys to £153. Expenditure was £1,860 in 1934 as compared with £1,841 in 1933.

Activities during 1934.

Surveys.

Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

Revision survey for a new edition of the plan of the town of Bathurst was continued.

Survey of new area for Mohammedan Cemetery.

Re-survey of the coast line from Denton Bridge to Bathurst.

Survey of the Deutsche Luft Hansa Aerodrome at Jeswang.

Survey of Fajara Estate was commenced.

Survey of general lay-out of Barro Kunda Wharf Town.

Plans.

133 plans were prepared in connection with lands granted or leased.

Plans were drawn in the records of the Colonial Registry, as required.

Various plans and sun-prints were made for departmental use and for the Commissioners.

Forty-three tracings of plots surveyed made.

Map of Fatoto village drawn.

Map of Kankuntu village drawn.

Map of the Gambia prepared shewing areas occupied by scrub, mango and bambo and sun-prints made for Colonial Secretary for use in connection with a survey of forestry resources in West Africa.

Numerous plans, tracings and sun-prints supplied to other Departments.

Grants and Leases.

Forty-eight grants and leases were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.

The Rating List for 1934 was completed early in the year and that for 1935 was prepared for public inspection.

The Land Officer and Surveyor was the Chairman of the Rates Assessment Committee in 1934.

Miscellaneous.

The Land and Survey Department supplied the Public Works Department throughout the year with the correct local time for regulating the clocks.

Valuations of properties in Bathurst were made for the Curator of Intestate Estates.

Chapter XVII. Miscellaneous.

Four French military airplanes visited the Gambia in February and made a short stay.

One British and three French privately owned airplanes also visited the Gambia during the year.

The R. M. S. "Atlantis" made two one day visits to Bathurst early in the year in the course of pleasure cruises.

Appendix I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any.)
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	—
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street	—
Bahsali Bros. & Co., Ltd.	do.	G. Bahsali, 82, Princess Street, Manchester.

Appendix II.

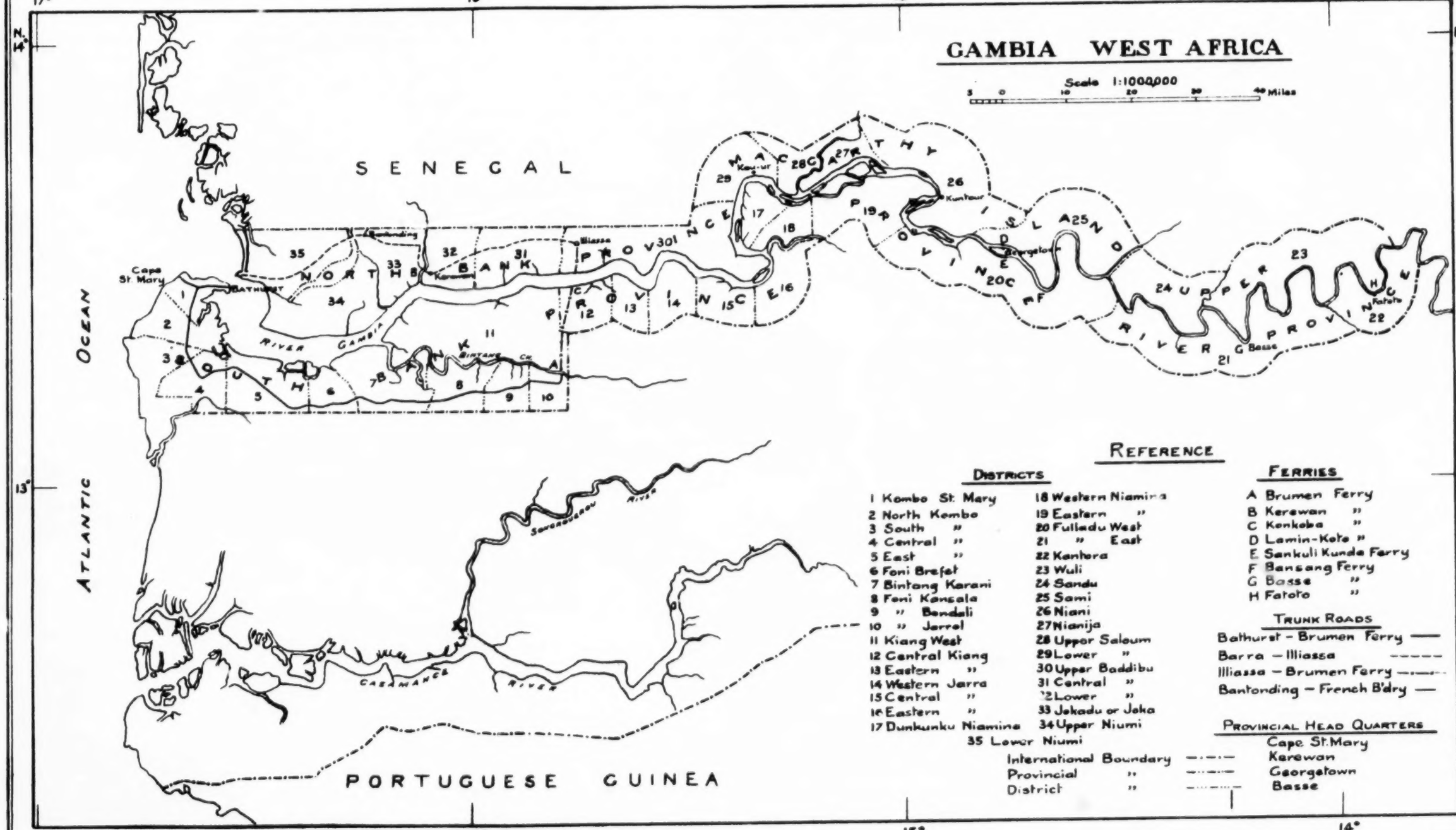
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR PUBLISHED	AGENT.	PRICE. £	s.	d.
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve, C.M.G.	1912	Messrs. Smith Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London.	0	6	0
Report on the Agricultural conditions and needs of the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1921	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
Chronological Account of James Island & Albreda.	C. Gwyn	1921	do.	0	0	6
List of Plants collected in the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1922	do.	0	1	0
Vocabulary of the Mandingo Language together with an Addenda.	Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.B. (Oxon).	1924	do.	0	10	0
Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.	—	1926	Receiver General Bathurst and Crown Agents for the Colonies.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper	1927	do.	0	3	0
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa.	Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	1931	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
A Short History of the Gambia.	W. T. Hamlyn	1931	do.	0	2	0
A short phrase book and classified vocabulary from English to Mandinka.	G. N. N. Nunn	1934	do.	0	1	6
Annual General Report on the Gambia.	—	up to 1930	Receiver General, Bathurst, and Crown Agents.	0	1	6
Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia.	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Annual Blue Book of the Gambia.	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Annual Report, Agricultural Department.	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Annual Report, Education Department.	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Annual Report, Medical Department.	—	—	do.	0	5	0

GAMBIA WEST AFRICA

Scale 1:1000000

5 0 10 20 30 40 Miles



REFERENCE

DISTRICTS

1 Kombo St Mary
2 North Kombo
3 South "
4 Central "
5 East "
6 Foni Brefet
7 Bintang Karani
8 Foni Kansala
9 " Bondali
10 " Jarrel
11 Kiang West
12 Central Kiang
13 Eastern "
14 Western Jarra
15 Central "
16 Eastern "
17 Dunkunku Niamina
18 Western Niamina
19 Eastern "
20 Fulladu West
21 " East
22 Kantora
23 Wuli
24 Sandu
25 Sami
26 Niani
27 Nianija
28 Upper Saloum
29 Lower "
30 Upper Baddibu
31 Central "
32 Lower "
33 Jokadu or Joka
34 Upper Niumi
35 Lower Niumi

FERRIES

A Brumen Ferry
B Kerewan "
C Kenkeba "
D Lamin-Kote "
E Sankuli Kunda Ferry
F Bansang Ferry
G Basse "
H Fatoto "

TRUNK ROADS

Bathurst – Brumen Ferry ——
Barra – Illiassa - - - - -
Illiassa – Brumen Ferry —·—·—
Bantonding – French B'dry —

PROVINCIAL HEAD QUARTERS

Cape St Mary
Kerewan
Georgetown
Basse

International Boundary —·—·—
Provincial " —··—··—
District " —···—···—

1136/1850 A 9503,548,10/35.

Malby & Sons

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s.* (4*s.* 4*d.*).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*).

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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1935.

Chapter I. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the facts that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (*sc.* Portuguese "egreja") near Kansala in Foni, Bintang and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuko near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Philip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals"

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Nerico. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who also made his way up to the Nerico. Notwithstanding the fact that Jobson in his "The Golden Trade" gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia, the patentees, who had been involved by these trading ventures in considerable losses, did not further prosecute the exploration of the Gambia but confined their attentions to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barracunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the nephew and godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Cape St. Mary), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Cape St. Mary. During the next eight years a very flourishing trade was carried on between the Gambia and Courland. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons,

who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven European in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1672 the Royal Adventurers sold their forts and factories to the Royal African Company, which was incorporated in that year by royal charter.

In 1678 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1686 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1856.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1703, and 1709, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1720 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort by stratagem and held it to a ransom of two thousand pounds. An even more serious disaster occurred in the following year, when the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Major John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's ships themselves turned pirate. Finally

in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's "Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa." Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on a trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequence of which was that they were obliged to call in their outfactors on the continent.....By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight: and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Superintendent of Trade was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company.

In 1787 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was purchased by the British government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Ansley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Ansleys to Major Houghton (1791), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1795 James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association, to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars the British were in possession of St. Louis and Goree, but it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that these places should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the very extensive traffic in slaves, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels in the River Gambia, the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On April 23, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In the following year the King of Kombo made a similar cession of territory on the south bank. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement

for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. Further cessions of other tracts of land near the mouth of the river and also further upstream were obtained in subsequent years. In 1856 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British governments for the delimitation of the boundries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance, but these boundries were not actually surveyed until 1905–06 when a Boundary Commission carried out the work.

In the meantime despite a number of petty wars the Gambia government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treatries conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fuladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to but merely placed under the protection of the British government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mohammedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province, comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 45,999. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river-ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dankunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 41,334. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 63,352. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The Majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 32,911. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinka districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy though, with better sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1935.

CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches.)
January	72·6	48	0·80
February	72·7	45	—
March	70·9	61	—
April	73·8	62	—
May	75·0	63	0·03
June	79·3	72	2·88
July	80·9	72	15·09
August	77·9	76	18·31
September	79·4	76	11·21
October	76·6	64	2·92
November	75·1	40	—
December	75·7	50	—
		Total ...	51·24 inches

Other records of rainfall were :—

Bathurst	48·15 inches
Yoroberi-kunda, MacCarthy Island Province	43·39 „
Wuli, Upper River Province	52·10 „

Chapter II. Government.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated) and also Brefet, Pajana, MacCarthy Island, the Cooled Mile and British Kombo all of which are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), some official Members, including the Members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an "Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of "certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by "Commissioners", (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that "All "native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories which are "not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance "of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have "the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance". The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms:—

> "31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—
>
> (*a*) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace, and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description.
>
> (*b*) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate;
>
> (*c*) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner's Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was provided for "by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads "Every person employed

"by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order "lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a "person authorised to execute Process of the Supreme Court."

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail, are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headmen) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than did the Protectorate Ordinance 1913 the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules which governed these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law which existed under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913, until April 1935. At that time this Ordinance was, in view of the frequent amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933, re-enacted in a consolidated form.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to

act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a chief. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

The former system of advances of seed ground-nuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a Rule under which every cultivator of ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Ample supplies of home-grown food-stufis are now being produced, and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

Local Government. In 1935 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health, formed in 1931 for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst, gave place to the Bathurst Advisory Town Council.

The constitution of the new Council is the same as that of the old, and is made up of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst, and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

Meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the Members of these Councils both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.

Chapter III. Population.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows :—

Mandinko	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only, as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows :—

Year.	Births.	Birth Rate per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered.)
1931* ...	422	2·9	369	2·5	227
1932 ...	339	2·3	355	2·4	242
1933 ...	331	2·3	368	2·5	290
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265
1935* ...	386	2·7	452	3·18	310·8

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burials permits being required in all cases), in some instances births of infants, in particular to illiterate parents, are not reported.

It is likely, however, that registration of births will soon become more accurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

* 1931 Census year showed a large increase of population.

* 1935 figures based on estimated population of 14,215.

With regard to the infantile mortality rate the figure given for 1935 is for the whole of Bathurst: of the 386 births 92 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 92 infants 11 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 119 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the infantile mortality rate of 310·8 for the whole of Bathurst.

Emigration and immigration.

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the commencement of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers' labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows:—674 in 1932, 817 in 1933, 530 in 1934 and 518 in 1935: but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who:—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,
(*b*) is an idiot or insane,
(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,
(*d*) is a prostitute, or
(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount. At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health.

Much work must be done before the Colony can be styled healthy. Infant mortality figures remain high, and there are far too many cases of preventable disease.

The problem is largely one of proper and efficient sanitation, and to this the Government is paying very strict attention. A Medical Officer of Health was appointed during the year and there were large increases in sanitary personnel. Following on the Yellow Fever outbreak in 1934, several thousand cavity-containing trees were removed—as they were found to be prolific breeders of the Aedes mosquito.

Public latrines were placed in appropriate sites, and inefficient house to house collection of rubbish was replaced by the construction of large concrete Refuse Disposal Depots at various points in Bathurst.

Incinerators were erected and worked satisfactorily.

Incombustible refuse was used for swamp reclamation.

Inspectors were trained in thorough house to house inspection, and the larval index brought down almost to zero.

Much remains to be done, but already there is marked improvement.

Diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems remain as formally the most prevalent in Bathurst, there having been 5,838 of the former and 4,138 of the latter. 933 cases of malaria were treated at the Victoria Hospital. The incidence rises rapidly during the heavy rains of September and remains high until the end of the year.

There is a steady increase in the number of cases of trypanosomiasis —there being 663 cases treated in Bathurst and 423 cases in the Protectorate as compared with 595 and 294 in 1934.

There are in Bathurst a European and African general hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics, while the service in the Protectorate consists of a general hospital at George-town and two dispensaries at Basse and Kau-ur.

Chapter V. Housing.

The whole question of housing is engrossing the attention of Government. New Building Regulations are necessary as many of the structures erected are most insanitary and very few are rat proof. A considerable degree of overcrowding exists. Much time, thought, and energy will have to be expended before it can be said that housing conditions are in any way satisfactory.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. In many places there is distinct improvement both in type and construction—but in nearly all cases there is inadequate provision for ventilation.

There is little sign of an organised lay-out in the villages and huts are crowded together—a condition of affairs only too suitable for the spread of disease.

An organised attempt is being made to improve sanitary conditions in the villages, particularly in relation to protection of water supplies and hygienic night soil disposal.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	32,911	22,652
South Bank Province	63,352	27,579
MacCarthy Island Province ...	41,334	25,586
Upper River Province	45,999	25,966
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	3,177

* Census figures 1931.

Chapter VI. Production.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of foodstuffs is raised, including rice, millet, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Owing to the danger of frequent locust invasions of recent years there have been risks of food shortage as the major crops grown are grains which the locusts attack. Efforts to increase areas under cassava and pigeon pea, crops not attacked by locusts, are proving successful particularly the former. Cotton is grown to some extent particularly in the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of cloth. Experiments are being conducted in connection with the cultivation of crops under irrigation during the dry season, and so far results have been fairly satisfactory. Improvements in the primitive cultivation practiced are desirable and trials by the Agricultural Department with local cattle trained to the plough are promising. A few interested Chiefs have sent cattle in for training.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Tons.	£ Value.
1931	66,811	506,125
1932	37,315	391,659
1933	67,370	500,766
1934	71,919	387,345
1935	45,140	368,887

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1935 the exports of these commodities were :—

			£
Palm Kernels	643 tons	value	4,223
Hides	93,181 lbs.	,,	1,660
Wax	63,989 lbs.	,,	1,541

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease

amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 690 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1935 some 1,667 head of cattle are reported to have died of rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

During April and May of 1933 the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria and the Veterinary Pathologist visited the country to investigate the situation and outline a scheme to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of their visit and as a result of their investigations an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was commenced in November 1933 when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary Officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and MacCarthy Island Provinces.

In November 1935, the Veterinary Pathologist was seconded from Nigeria and continued to inoculate cattle in MacCarthy Island Province.

That the cattle owners appreciate the value of immunization has been shown by the many requests for inoculation from the adjoining districts where inoculations have not yet been undertaken.

There is no doubt but that with each succeeding season these demand will increase and the success of the scheme is assured.

Rinderpest has been in the past the great obstacle to the development of the cattle breeding industry, but effective control of this disease is in sight and it is anticipated with confidence that in the near future the industry will be restored to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

There are no minerals of commercial value in the Colony nor are there any important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	250,311	292,700	435,902	326,175	183,287
Specie	2,302	5,141	13,966	4,326	30,000
..	252,613	297,841	449,868	330,501	513,287

The following table shows the principal items of imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1935.

	United Kingdom	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries	Total.	
Articles.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	4,778	48	3,450	—	8,276
Bags and Sack ...	503	3,885	228	159,893 no.	4,616
(*a*) Boots, Shoes and Slippers ...	713	217	3,208	44,094 prs.	4,138
Coal	2,821	—	—	1,504 tons.	2,821
Cotton Piece Goods	105,069	1,186	12,037	5,653,778 sq.yds.	118,292
Cotton Manufactures (other) ...	6,273	276	10,402	—	16,951
Cotton Yarn ...	5,252	—	1,290	89,816 lbs.	6,542
Flour Wheaten ...	4,921	2,311	3,402	19,168 cwts.	10,637
(*b*) Hats and Caps	978	121	5,758	—	6,857
Kola-Nuts ...	—	51,987	48	29,296 cwts.	52,035
Metal (all kinds)	7,267	5	6,320	—	13,592
Motor Vehicles ...	2,958	1,971	695	50 no.	4,924
Oils, edible ...	6,836	5	1,537	64,162 galls.	8,378
(*c*) Oils, not edible	907	—	13,057	312,233 „	13,964
Rice	—	55,818	11	142,690 cwts.	55,829
Soap	3,619	—	783	4,433 „	4,402
(*d*) Sugar ...	1,207	—	10,487	15,328 „	11,694
Tobacco ...	7,812	3,591	3,595	213,368 lbs.	14,908

(*a*). Including £2,133 from Czechoslovakia.
892 „ Morocco.
(*b*). Including 2,541 „ France.
1,760 „ Germany.
(*c*). Including 8,504 „ U. S. America.
(*d*). „ 8,721 „ France.

The percentages of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, were as follows:—

Country.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	37.73	51.02	50.34	42.43	46.32
British Possessions ...	14.45	15.07	16.66	22.32	27.31
Total—British Empire	52.18	66.09	67.00	64.75	73.63
France	24.52	14.75	11.63	9.06	7.27
Other Countries	23.30	19.16	21.37	26.19	19.10
Total Foreign Countries	47.82	33.91	33.00	35.25	26.37

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of imports for the last five years:—

Article.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	2 12. 9	3 10. 10½	2 11. 9½	2 6. 0	2 2. 8
Coal per ton	2 9 1½	2 8. 11¾	2 12. 5	1 14. 8	1 17. 6
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yd.	0 0. 5	0 0. 4	0 0. 4¼	0 0. 4¼	0 0. 5
Cotton Yarn per lb.	0 1. 4¼	0 1. 1½	0 1. 1¾	0 1. 1¼	0 1. 5¼
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	0 11. 11	0 12. 6¼	0 10. 1	0 8. 10	0 11. 1
Kola Nuts per cwt.	1 11. 8	1 10. 0	1 15. 3¼	1 7. 6½	1 15. 6
Oils Edible per gall.	0 2. 5	0 2. 5¼	0 1. 11¾	0 2. 3½	0 2. 7¼
Rice per cwt.	0 9. 3¼	0 9. 7½	0 7. 1¾	0 6. 11¼	0 7. 9¾
Salt per ton..	2 6. 6	1 13. 4¾	1 11. 7¼	1 12. 5	1 10. 8¾
Sugar per cwt.	0 17. 0	0 17. 2	0 17. 0¼	0 16. 6½	0 14. 8½
Tea per lb.	0 1. 6¾	0 1. 9	0 1. 9	0 1. 8½	0 1. 7¼

Exports.

The exports for the last five years including specie were as follows :—

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	527,111	406,894	515,208	401,849	392,724
Specie	2,761	199,620	—	53,900	103,980
Total ...	529,872	606,514	515,208	455,749	496,704

The following table shows the principal items of exports to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1935.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides.		Palm Kernels.	
	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	11,327	86,040	50,663	544	407	2,761
British Possessions	37	329	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	9,151	83,428	—	—	—	—
Denmark ...	9,164	76,632	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	42,518	516	—	—
Germany ...	4,299	36,541	—	—	236	1,462
Holland	10,831	83,465	—	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	301	2,452	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	45,110	368,887	93,181	1,060	643	4,223

The percentages of British and foreign exports, exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	03.83	20.66	34.06	11.26	23.67
British Possessions ...	00.82	00.89	01.23	01.14	00.54
Total British Empire ...	04.65	21.55	35.29	12.40	24.21
France	56.90	59.80	37.97	00.00	00.16
Germany	19.91	00.92	05.94	50.09	10.27
Holland	15.21	10.73	15.59	24.34	21.25
Other Countries ...	03.33	07.00	5.21	13.17	44.11
Total Foreign Countries ...	95.35	78.45	64.71	87.60	75.79

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years :—

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	7. 11. 6	10. 9. 11	7. 8. 8	5. 7. 9	8. 3. 7
Hides per lb.	0. 0. $2\frac{3}{4}$	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 3	0. 0. 3
Palm Kernels per ton	8. 19. $9\frac{1}{2}$	7. 13. $8\frac{3}{4}$	6. 16. 6	4. 18. 1	6. 11. 4

Shipping.

The percentages of shipping of various nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	%	%	%	%	%
British	55.4	57.2	56.7	53.31	55.74
French	19.0	21.8	20.3	12.57	9.63
Dutch	4.3	2.7	2.5	1.71	1.55
German	3.3	4.6	8.0	20.54*	22.39*
Norwegian...	—	3.0	4.6	3.96	3.68
American	4.8	5.7	1.9	3.93	3.48
Italian	1.8	—	1.0	0.37	—
Swedish	7.2	4.9	3.3	2.34	2.07
Danish	2.9	—	0.3	0.37	.43
Other Countries	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.90	1.03

* Includes catapult vessels of Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G.

Chapter VIII. Wages and Cost of Living.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives from French territory enter Bathurst to obtain employment, whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

Rates of pay.

The rates of pay for artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths, fitters, masons, and painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day (8 hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows :—

(*a*) those on a monthly wage,
(*b*) those on a daily wage, and
(*c*) farm labourers.

(*a*) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in most cases, a monthly issue of 45lbs. of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (e.g. sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/9 to 2/6 a day. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

(*b*) Daily wage labourers receive from 1/- to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(*c*) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crops is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local natives, each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subjects referred to above.

Cost of living.

In the Protectorate, rice and guinea-corn form the staple diet of the people, whilst a considerable amount of bread, sugar, salt and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer. The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows :—

Rice or corn	...	...	...	3*d.*
Bread	...	...	...	1*d.*
Fish	...	...	...	1*d.*
Oil	...	...	...	1*d.*
Sugar	...	...	...	½*d.*
Condiments	...	...	...	½*d.*
Total		...	...	7*d.*

Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1d.

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/- a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for him-self is rather less than in Bathurst.

The prices of foodstuffs are generally lower than those obtaining before the war. The following table gives some examples :—

	1935 (average)	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	23/-	33/-
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/2	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	14/6	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/-	4/-
Sugar per lb.	-/3	5½d

Cost of living. European Government Officials.

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst :

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Firewood	9
Electric Light	10
Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc.)	40
Provisions and Wines	125
Tobacco	10
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme contribution	24
Miscellaneous expenditure including equipment	35
Total	£335

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

Chapter IX. Education and Welfare Institutions.

Since 1903 Education in the Gambia has been controlled by the Board of Education of which the Governor had been the President. Members of the Board included the members of the Legislative Council, the Superintendent of Education, and such other members, not exceeding six in number, as might be appointed by the Governor. At the end of November, 1935, a new Education Ordinance came into force. It had been drafted with a view to placing the method of assessing Grant-in-Aid on a more regularised basis, making provision, on the lines of legislation in other Colonies, for the more efficient supervision of the work done in schools, and making the Board of Education an advisory body with a wider and freer scope for criticism and discussion. The new Board of Education, presided over by the Superintendent of Education, consists of one representative from each mission or educational body working in the Colony or Protectorate appointed by the Governor, together with not less than three other members of whom one must be an African, and one a woman. It is the duty of the Board to consider the reports on schools laid before it by the Superintendent of Education and to advise Government thereon: to recommend to the Governor any changes in regulations, and to make any reports which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, and the department is administered by the Superintendent of Education, a duty post held by an Administrative Officer. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

Elementary and secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants, and a Committee of leading Mohammedans runs the Mohammedan School, an elementary school. These schools are all aided by grants from Government which maintains also a Manual Training Centre at the Public Works Department. There is no university education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which, in 1935, had a total of 1,952 pupils on the registers (1,350 boys and 602 girls) and an average attendance of 982. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Methodist Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1935 were 58 boys and 88 girls with average attendances of 45 and 66 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1935 there were nine students on the register.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with 42 on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by

training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools which would have only a local effect. The Methodist Mission maintains a small day school in Georgetown, and the Anglican Mission two day schools (unassisted) in the Protectorate.

A committee was appointed in 1932 to draw up a revised syllabus for use in the Bathurst elementary schools. The new syllabus, after approval by the Board of Education, came into use on the 1st January, 1934, and has it is hoped considerably assisted educational progress in the Gambia.

The following examinations were held during the year: Cambridge Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination; Elementary Schools Standard VII Examination.

Welfare Institutions, etc.

Free Medical Treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreation, etc.

In Bathurst Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground is to be constructed in Half Die, Bathurst. Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once every week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public. The concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter X. Communications and Transport.

External.

For mail services the colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd. There is a regular monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government continued the agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and Europe. This company operates a service weekly throughout the year.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Port Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Stuttgart—Marseille—Barcelona—Seville—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Port Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The Luft Hansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, the catapult ship "Schwabenland", four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Port Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and airplanes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only.

The Graf Zeppelin normally does not call at the intermediate ports, but during November three visits were made to the Jeshwang aerodrome, while the "Schwabenland" and airplanes were undergoing repair.

The outward mail leaves Stuttgart on Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrives in Bathurst on Friday at 1 a.m.; formerly the mail was transferred to the catapult ship "Schwabenland," which proceeded to sea and after 36 hours' steaming catapulted off a flying boat. Now it is possible to effect the trans-Atlantic crossing direct from Bathurst, and the mail reaches South America on Friday at 8 p.m.

The homeward mail plane leaves port Natal on Friday, arriving in Bathurst on Saturday morning. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which leaves Bathurst on Saturday morning and arrives in Stuttgart on Sunday afternoon.

Bathurst Harbour.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages offshore vary from 9 to 14 fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. There is sufficient water at the entrance for vessels of 27 feet draft to enter the harbour.

Government Wharf has been re-constructed; the wooden decking having been replaced by ferro-concrete, underwater piles have been refitted, and an up-to-date system of rails installed with two 2½ ton petrol cranes. The "T" head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 16 feet alongside. There are eleven other wharves which are from 100 to 200 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1¾ hours after high and low water by the shore; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream considerable swirls sometimes occur at springs during, and immediately after, the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well lighted by a light vessel, buoys, and light structures.

Internal.

River Transport.

The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than 12 feet draft, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntau-ur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draft of 19 feet. Vessels not exceeding 6 feet 6 inches in draft can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

Marine Department.

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons). Two Government lighters "Vampire" (170 tons) and "Jean Maurel" (174 tons) are also available for additional cargoes; the latter is self-propelled.

The steamers call at 27 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles) and 32 ports when calling at Fattoto (288 miles). This ensures communication with all ports in the Protectorate twice weekly during the trade season from November to May. A fortnightly or monthly service is maintained for the remainder of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows:—

	1933	1934	1935
Passengers carried ...	9,125	7,791	10,057
Cargo (tons) ...	4,403	5,391	4,211
Revenue from passenger traffic ...	£3,036. 0. 0.	£2,795. 12. 7.	£3,501. 13. 7.
Revenue from freight ...	£3,787. 7. 6.	£3,709. 10. 1.	£3,837. 14. 7.

The refitting of Government steamers and of vessels belonging to firms was carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross—the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries.

Passenger and vehicular ferries, installed by Government in connection with the road system plied at the following points :—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)
Brumen (connecting Roads Nos. 1 & 3)
Lamin Koto — MacCarthy Island
Sankulikunda — MacCarthy Island
Bansang, Basse, Fattoto, Kau-ur—Jessadi } continuation of Road No. 2.

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1935.

Roads.

There are four trunk roads :

No. 1. Bathurst-Jeswang-Abuko-Lamin-Yundum-Brikama-Kafuta-N'Demban-Bwiam-Brumen Ferry. (90¾ miles).

No. 2. Barra-Berrending (Bantanding)-Dasilami-Kerewan Ferry-Saba-Banni-N'Jakunda-Illiassa. (62 miles).

No. 3. Illiassa-Katchang-Konkoba-Kwinella-Jataba-Brumen Ferry. (22½ miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French boundary. (2½ miles).

No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on trunk road No. 2) to the French boundary, (¾ mile).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa *via* Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the south bank running from Kwinella, (on trunk road No. 3) to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary and feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows :—

North Bank Province	... ...	116 miles
South Bank Province	... ...	95 „
MacCarthy Island Province	...	280 „
Upper River Province	... ...	200 „

Postal Services.

Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The Kuntau-ur office is closed during the rainy season (June to October).

The total number of letters, postcards, papers etc., dealt with during 1935 was 222,171—an increase of 33,156 over the preceding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,911 as compared with 3,469 in 1934. In addition, 1,373 small postal packets were dealt with.

11,079 airmail letters were despatched and 4,875 were received during the year.

Money & Postal Order statistics are as follows :—

	1934	1935
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	16,881	17,536
Revenue derived from Money Orders	121	104
Postal Orders issued & paid	6,465	7,633
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	53	61

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1935 was £6,785 as compared with £1,536 in 1934. The greater part of the revenue of 1935 was derived from the date of jubilee stamps to philatelists.

Telephone Service.

A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and at Cape St. Mary, the total number of subscribers, exclusive of extensions, being 95. The total value of the service was £638, of which amount £440 represented the value of free service to Government Departments.

Wireless Service.

There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia but internal communication is maintained by four wireless stations established at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The station at Bathurst has a range of 1000 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the wireless service in 1935 was £871 including £359 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1934 were £834 and £316 respectively.

Telegraph Cables.

The Eastern Telegraph Company Ltd., has a station in Bathurst and cables run to Sierra Leone to the south and St. Vincent to the north

Chapter XI. Banking, Currency, Weights & Measures.

Bank.

The only Bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Post Office Savings Bank, the rate of interest being 2½ per cent per annum. At the 31st of December 1935 the deposits amounted to £3,320 in respect of 981 depositors.

Currency.

The currency is British West African alloy and nickel-bronze coins of denominations 2/-, 1/-, 6d, 3d, 1d, & ½d; and British West African currency notes of 20/- & 10/- denominations.

Stocks of currency are held on behalf of the West African currency board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required, against payment in London.

The value of the notes in circulation on the 31st December 1935 was £232,984 as compared with £224,434 on the 31st December 1934 whilst alloy coins to the value of £250,522 were in circulation at the end of 1935 as against £218,672, at the end of the previous year.

Weights and Measures.

Standard weights and measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial measures of capacity, length and surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, of 1902 and are kept by the Government. The Commissioner of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the Annual Estimates and for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen, and two African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of an Accountant and nine African Clerks.

In addition the Department operates the electric light and power services comprising some 42 miles of distribution mains, the ice making plant, the Albert Market refrigerating plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the fire protection plant and the Government motor transport service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and in the Protectorate the main road from Bathurst which branches to Cape St. Mary and to the Kombo North and Central Districts, and certain other trunk roads are similarly maintained.

Activities during 1935 :—

(*a*) Maintenance. (Expenditure £12,977).

Bathurst Water Supply.

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1935 was 51,787,000 gallons.

The rates charged are as follows :—

General Water Rate	... ...	(1½% on rateable value).
Water Supply rate	... ...	£2 per annum.
Supply rate to vessels	... ...	1/4d. per 100 gallons.
Meter rate	... ...	1/6d. per 1,000 gallons.
Washing out ground nut stores	...	£2 10/- per hour.

Revenue 1935 :—

General rate	... ...	£632	15 6
Supply rate	... ...	141	16 8
Supply to vessels	... ...	122	18 8
Meter rate	... ...	8	0 5
Washing out ground nut stores	...	13	2 6
		£918	13 9.

Water supplied to the following metered consumers was :—

R. W. A. F. F.	1,513,550	gallons.
Prison	230,622	„
Botanical Gardens, Cape St. Mary ...	869,250	„
Cooling Plant, Albert Market, Bathurst ...	358,052	„
	2,971,474	gallons.

Electric Light and Power Services.

The Power Station is situated in the centre of the Town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of four solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators, 2 x 100 K.W., 1 x 50 K.W., and 1 x 25 K.W. Total 275 K.W.

System A. C. 3 Phase 4 wire 50 periods. Consumers voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Feeder and distributors overhead cable.

Number of private consumers 234, an increase of 22 during the year.

Supply commenced June 1926.

Total units generated 1935, 359,860.

Maximum load recorded 104 K. W.

Total connected load 549 K. W.

Total motors connected 274 B. H. P.

Public lighting 350 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some 9½ miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 30 K. V. A. transformer at the north end of the town—the voltage being stepped-up to 3,300 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Cape St. Mary 8 miles away, where it feeds a 15 K. V. A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about 2 miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1935 were as follows :—

(*a*) Units sold			69,162
(*b*) Ice Factory			7,605
(*c*) Public Services, Street Lighting ...	94.970		
(*d*) „ „ Government House ...	18,677		
(*e*) „ „ Hospital, Clinics, etc. ...	27,335		
(*f*) „ „ Market	7,314		
(*g*) „ „ Police Station & Prison	7,299		
(*h*) „ „ Customs Shed & Wharf	4,827		
(*i*) „ „ Half Die Pumping Station	4,998		
(*j*) „ „ Post Office, Wireless and Telephones ...	4,616		
(*k*) „ „ Wireless Station ...	2,789		
(*l*) „ „ Public Works Department	13,243		
(*m*) „ „ Marine	17,272		
(*n*) „ „ Printing Office	1,409		
(*o*) „ „ Other Government Offices	3,422		208,171
Carried Forward			284,938

Brought Forward	284,938
(*p*) Power Station (auxiliaries and lighting)	61,997
(*q*) Lost in distribution	12,925
Total Units generated	359,860

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1935 on maintenance amounted to £2,798.

Ice Factory.

The Public Works Department also run and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to 29¼ tons.

Market Cold Store.

A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 156½ tons of meat passed through this storage last year.

(*b*) Construction, etc. (Expenditure £9,511).

The principal works carried out during the year included :—

	£
Reclamation and Drainage	1,051
Consolidation of roads	1,517
Extension of water services	138
Police Lines, additional accommodation	225
Cattle Kraal	185
Sand filling of Compounds	252
New latrines, dustbins & incinerators ...	2,069
Alterations to Colonial Secretary's Bungalow	197
Bridges and culverts	159
Minor works	438

Colonial Development Schemes.

The re-conditioning of Government Wharf was completed at a total cost of £11,604.

Anti-malaria and anti-yellow fever measures.

The felling and removal of cotton, baobab and flamboyant trees were continued.

Rainwater storage tanks were removed, and gravel soakage pits were replaced by waste water drums for the disposal of water by broad distribution.

A number of sanitary sites have been chosen and on them have been built concrete dustbins with metal doors from which the Health Department collects the refuse to be incinerated.

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court, the Coroner's Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1905. It is presided over by a Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Bathurst Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court which is a Subordinate Court of the first class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 7), pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £200.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a variety of matters is conferred by a number of local Ordinances.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the second class and may under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8) pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £50.
(*c*) Coporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the first class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners, who are Justices of the Peace. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England.

It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from the Subordinate Courts, the Judge reviews criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate if necessity arises.

The Supreme Court has the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as it possesses in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

The Protectorate Courts are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals. These latter were established in each District by the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, constituted by native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, the rights of parents and guardianship when the parties are both Mohammedans, and the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a Native Tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades with the following jurisdiction :—

Grade A.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by nine months imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine. Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damages does not exceed £50.

Grade B.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by six months imprisonment or a fine of £10 or both such imprisonment and fine. Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £25.

The Commissioner of the Province has wide powers of control and revision over the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Provincial Courts Ordinance, 1935 and are presided over by a Commissioner, or an Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissioner, they are Subordinate Courts of the first class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q. v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides the Court is a Subordinate Court of the second class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q. v.). Provincial Courts have a civil jurisdiction in all claims up to £100. An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court in a criminal matter.

Coroner's Court.

A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioners.

Judicial Staff.

There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty-seven Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi and approximately two hundred members of Native Tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees.

Crime.

In the Colony 489 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 498 persons in 1934. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 797 offences as compared with 1,327 offences in 1934. In addition the Bathurst Police Court also dealt with 241 rating cases.

The number of criminal informations filed in the Supreme Court was 14.

Statistics for the year 1935.

Criminal.

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	23	10 (and two found insane)	—	11
Police Court ...	489	82	4	403
Provincial Courts :—				
North Bank Province ...	42	15	1	26
South Bank Province ...	31	5	2	24
MacCarthy Is. Province	39	6	4	29
Upper River Province ...	41	2	3	36
Native Tribunals :—				
North Bank Province ...	99	3	—	96
South Bank Province ...	294	23	—	271
MacCarthy Is. Province	193	12	—	171
Upper River Province ...	211	53	—	158

Civil.

Supreme Court	...	...	19 cases
Mohammedan Court	...	...	110 ,,
Court of Requests	...	...	1,224 ,,
Provincial Courts	...	...	73 ,,
Native Tribunals	...	...	801 ,,

POLICE.

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Commissioner of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent of Police and the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of an Inspector of Police, four Sub-Inspectors and 120 other ranks, including 24 Band personnel.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of weights and measures, traffic control, fire fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

Maintenance of Law and Order.

Statistics.

	1934.	1935.
Cases dealt with ...	... 504	660
Prosecutions conducted ...	... 369	488
Convictions obtained ...	... 340	459
Inquest summonses served	... 16	15
Warrants executed ...	... 24	1
Summonses and subpoena served	... 1270	902

Issue of Licences.

Motor Vehicle ...	...	299	336
Dog	...	98	63
Firearms	...	118*	145*
Domestic Servant ...	...	494	495
Motor Driver ...	...	461	495
Liquor	...	14	25
Entertainment ...	...	8	9

* Bathurst only.

Traffic control.

Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Bureau.

The Bureau, which was organised in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and Measures are dealt with in Chapter XI.

Relations with the Public.

Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.

Being an armed force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instruction :—

Law and general police duties.
Observation training.
Traffic control.
Physical training.
Infantry drill.
Musketry.
Fire drill.

Health.

The health of the Force during 1935 was good.

Band.

The public concerts given weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

PRISON.

In the Gambia the main Prison is situated at Bathurst, but there is a native prison at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island Province. The buildings of the Prison at Bathurst which were formerly used as an isolation hospital were converted into a prison in 1920. They are of solid construction, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and a pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three association wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary,cook-house, stores and out-houses. The warders are accommodated close to the prison.

Staff.

The Staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Commissioner of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Commissioner of Police), an African Chief Warder and twenty-three other African warders.

Health.

The prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1935 was good, the daily average number of sick being ·59 per cent of the average daily number in the prison.

Visiting Committee.

The prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Assistant Receiver General and an African Member of the Legislative Council. In addition, all Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.

On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.

Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of Prisoners.

In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking etc. the prisoners are employed on minor public work under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1935, 10,950 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.

The discipline during 1935 was good, thirteen offences being recorded. One prisoner escaped but was recaptured.

Admissions and Discharges.

	1934.	1935.
Admission	284	292
Discharges	223	234
Average daily number of prisoners	50·68	75·5

Chapter XIV Legislaton.

During 1935 twenty-one Ordinances were enacted.
The only Ordinances which call for any comment are:—

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance—Making provision with regard to the importation, exportation, manufacture, sale and use of dangerous drugs.

The Protectorate Ordinance—Consolidating and amending the law relating to the management of the Protectorate.

The Wharves Ordinance—Making provision for the licensing of Wharves, and other matters relating thereto.

The Provincial Courts Ordinance—Establishing in the Protectorate Provincial Courts with civil and criminal jurisdiction clearly defined.

The Navigation and Pilotage (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance—Conferring power on the Navigation and Pilotage Board to make bye-laws providing for the grant of certificates of competency as river masters, quarter-masters and engine-drivers and also for the survey of motor or steamer vessels and the appointment and duties of licensed surveyors.

The Public Health Ordinance—Dealing comprehensively with public health.

The Bathurst Advisory Town Council Ordinance—Establishing an Advisory Council for the Island of St. Mary consisting of nominated and elected and ex-officio councillors whose duty it is to make to the Governor recommendations or suggestions affecting the welfare of the residents arising out of the following matters:—Public Health, Lighting, Drainage, Housing, Town Planning, etc.

The Midwives Ordinance—Making provision for the training and registration of midwives and regulating their practice.

The Naval Volunteer Ordinance—Making provision for the establishment of a Volunteer Naval Defence Force.

The Education Ordinance—Making provision for the promotion of Education.

The Probates Re-sealing Ordinance—Providing for the recognition in the Colony of probate and letters of administration granted in His Majesty's dominions or by a British Court in a foreign country.

Chapter XV. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years were :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1926	£214,181	£213,643
1927	252,419	277,625
1928	255,385	250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015
1933	231,787	180,161
1934	221,564	174,663
1935	245,485	194,669

Development Loan.

On the 1st February, 1933, the Crown Agents for the Colonies arranged a loan for the purpose of meeting part of the cost of development works undertaken in the Colony viz:—improvement of roads, water supply and wharf.

The amount of stock issued was £38,759 13 9 at £97 per cent bearing 3½ per cent interest per annum. The loan is redeemable in 30 years and a sinking fund contribution is made at the rate of 1·9 per cent per annum. At the close of the year the sum of £297 remained undisbursed and the sinking fund stood at £2,211.

Government Funds.

(*a*) Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1935 ...	£224,370
(*b*) Reserve Fund	73,318
(*c*) Steamer Depreciation Fund	18,036
	£315,724

Taxation.

The main sources of Revenue from taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows:—

	1931	1932	1933	1934.	1935
Customs Import Duties.	£	£	£	£	£
Ad valorem	7,522	18,588	18,480	8,392	10,519
Specific :—					
Kola Nuts	22,319	29,294	33,528	38,559	54,689
Kerosene & Petroleum	2,678	2,600	4,789	6,151	7,872
Spirits ...	2,587	2,463	2,461	3,430	3,906
Tobacco ...	9,954	10,821	14,704	8,974	17,150

	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ...	—	—	—	2,695	4,355
Cottons ...	—	—	—	14,273	22,395
Wines ...	2,089	1,623	2,194	1,353	2,438
Other articles	7,503	8,030	36,979	12,515	14,028
Rice ...	—	7,984	9,893	9,120	13,774
Parcel Post	572	517	524	492	530
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-nuts	66,321	18,520	33,609	35,666	22,358
Total Customs Duties.	£121,987	£100,440	£157,161	£141,620	£174,014
Port Dues	2,959	2,324	2,773	2,768	3,023
Protectorate Taxes	10,179	8,379	14,187	13,638	11,365
Trade Licences	2,360	1,968	3,111	3,195	3,347
Other Licences Liquor, Motor Car etc.	1,911	2,435	1,883	2,126	2,627
Town Rates	2,386	2,584	2,057	2,242	1,978
TOTAL	£141,782	£118,121	£181,172	£165,589	£196,354

Customs Tariff.

The duty on foreign cement was increased from 1/3*d* to 2/6*d* per 400lbs. gross.

Excise and Stamp duties.

There are no excise duties. The revenue collected in 1935 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £222.

Yard Tax.

Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed:—

(*a*) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses	5/-
(*b*) For every additional Hut or House in the yard	1/6
(*c*) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier	2/-
(*d*) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land ...	8/-

Chapter XVI.—Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are performed in regard to lands held under lease from Government, the revision and preparation of plans, valuations of properties and the assessment of rates for the town of Bathurst, etc.

Grants and Leases of public land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 21 years.

Plots at the various trading centres in the Protectorate or "Wharf Towns" as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10/- per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2 10. 0. per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands and Wharf Licences in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £6,650 for the year 1935, whilst £222 were received in respect of survey fees. In 1934 the rents and rates amounted to £7,154 and the fees for surveys to £198. Expenditure was £1,708 in 1935 as compared with £1,860 in 1934.

Activities During 1935.

Surveys.

Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

Revision survey for a new edition of the plan of the town of Bathurst was continued, three-fourths of the work being completed.

Four surveys were carried out in Bathurst.

The survey and levelling of a portion of the Fajarra Estate was completed.

The following wharf town plans were revised :—

Kuntau-ur Wharf, Bansang, Georgtown, Lamin Koto, Kau-ur Wharf, Jessadi and Fatoto.

Plans.

137 plans were prepared in connection with lands and wharves granted or licensed.

Plans were drawn in the records of the Colonial Registry, as required.

Various plans, tracings and sun-prints were made for Departmental use, for the Commissioners and in connection with the proposed Bathurst Reclamation Scheme.

Forty-three tracings of plots and wharves surveyed, made.

Maps of Jessadi and Lamin Koto re-drawn.

Numerous plans, tracings and sun-prints supplied to other Departments.

Grants and Leases.

Forty-seven grants, leases and wharf licences were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.

The Rating List for 1935 was completed early in the year and that for 1936 was prepared for public inspection.

The Land Officer and Surveyor was the Chairman of the Rates Assessment Committee in 1935.

Miscellaneous.

The Printed List of Grants and Wharf Licences in the Colony and Protectorate was revised up to 31st. December, 1935.

The Land and Survey Department supplied the Public Works Department throughout the year with the correct local time for regulating the clocks.

Valuations of properties in Bathurst were made for the Curator of Intestate Estates.

Chapter XVII Miscellaneous.

The celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne was fittingly observed in Bathurst and in the Protectorate on 6th and 7th May.

On the first of these days in Bathurst Thanksgiving Services were held in Church and afterwards His Excellency the Governor, His Honour the Judge of the Supreme Court and Members of the Legislative Council processed through the town. A Military Parade was held the same afternoon, followed by a reception in Government House in the evening. His Majesty's broadcast message was listened to intently by many people.

On the second day, His Excellency addressed the school children in the morning, cakes and sweetmeats being afterwards distributed, and sports were held in the afternoon. A firework display and a concert by the Band of the Gambia Police Force took place in the evening.

Food to the value of £40 was distributed to the poor of Bathurst by the Ward Heads during the week, and special prayers were offered in the Mosque on the Friday following the celebrations.

In the Protectorate, the Silver Jubilee was duly celebrated at Provincial and District Headquarters.

In the last eight months of the year large quantities of Jubilee Stamps were sold, and, during the celebrations, Jubilee Medals were on sale in their various forms.

Five French military airplanes visited the Gambia on the 27th of February, and on the 20th of May the "Santander", a single engined British "Clem" machine of Spanish ownership, left on its successful solo flight to Port Natal, South America.

The "R. M. S." Atlantis made two one-day visits, on the 27th of February, and the 31st of December in the course of pleasure cruises. Visits of other ships were curtailed at the beginning of the year owing to the quarantine restrictions in force in Bathurst.

Appendix I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

Name.	Address in the Gambia.	Address of Head Office outside the Gambia.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street Bathurst.	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4, England.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	Represented by Office Cooperatif de l'Afrique Française, 22 Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	18, Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	Represented by Maurel Frères Société à responsibilité Limitée, 6, Quai Louis XVIII Bordeaux, France.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	29, Boulevarde Pinet Laprade, Dakar, F.W.A.
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street Bathurst.	Campbell Bros, Carter & Co., Ltd. 37–41 Gracechurch St: London, E.C. 3, England.
Bahsali Bros. & Co., Ltd.	do.	J. Bahsali, 82, Princess Street, Manchester, England.

Appendix II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR OF PUBLICATION.	AGENT.	PRICE. £	s.	d.
The Gambia Colony and Protectorate: An Official Handwork.	Francis Bisset Archer	1906	St. Bridés Press, Ltd., London	0	10	6
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve, C.M.G., M.I.C.E., F.R.G.S., F.A.S.	1912	Messrs. Smith Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London.	0	6	0
Report on the Agricultural Conditions and Needs of the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1921	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
Chronological Account of James Island and Albreda.	C. Gwyn	1921	do.	0	0	6
List of Plants collected in the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1922	do.	0	1	0
Vocabulary of the Mandingo Language together with an Addenda.	Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.B. (Oxon).	1924	do.	0	10	0
Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.		1926	Receiver General, Bathurst, and Crown Agents for the Colonies London, Eng.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper B. Sc. (Eng.)	1927	do.	0	3	0
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa.	Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	1931	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
A Short History of the Gambia.	W. T. Hamlyn	1931	do.	0	2	0
A Short Phrase Book and Classified Vocabulary of the Mandinka Language.	G. N. N. Nunn B.A. (Cantab.)	1931	do.	0	1	6
A Short Study of the Western Mandinka Language.	W. T. Hamlyn	1935	do.	0	5	0
General Report on the Gambia (annual.)	—	up to 1930	Receiver General and Crown Agents.	0	1	6
Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Blue Book of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Report of the Agricultural Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Report of the Education Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Report of the Medical Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	5	0

GAMBIA WEST AFRICA

Scale: 1:1,000,000

SENEGAL

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Cape St Mary

Bathurst

Barra

Denton Bridge

Georgetown

Kau-ur

Kuntaur

Basse

Fatoto

Farafenni

Soma

Yundum

Brikama

Mansakonko

Kerewan

Janjanbureh

Basse

Fatoto

Cassamance River

REFERENCE

Districts

1 Kombo St. Mary
2 North Kombo
3 South "
4 Central "
5 East "
6 Foni Brefet
7 Bintang Karanai
8 Foni Kansala
9 " Bondali
10 " Jarrol
11 Kiang West
12 Central Kiang
13 Eastern "
14 Western Jarra
15 Central "
16 Eastern "
17 Dunkunku Niamina
18 Western "
19 Eastern Niamina
20 Fulladu West
21 " East
22 Kantora
23 Wuli
24 Sandu
25 Sami
26 Niani
27 Nianija
28 Upper Saloum
29 Lower "
30 Upper Baddibu
31 Central "
32 Lower "
33 Jokadu or Joka
34 Upper Niumi
35 Lower "
36 MacCarthy Island

International Boundary
Provincial "
District "

Ferries

A Brumen Ferry
B Kerewan "
C Kau-ur "
D Lamin-Koto "
E Sankuli Kunda Ferry
F Bansang Ferry
G Basse "
H Fatoto "

Trunk Roads

Bathurst – Brumen Ferry
Barra – Illiassa
Illiassa – Brumen Ferry
Bantanding – French B'dry

Provincial Head Quarters

Cape St Mary
Kerewan
Georgetown
Basse

Survey Dept. Gambia.

(2906) 22054, 674, 9/36 G, Rel C & R [illegible]

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.
Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*)

MALTA.
Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s.* (4*s.* 4*d.*).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.
Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

KENYA.
Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

SWAZILAND.
Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*).

MALAYA.
Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

SEYCHELLES.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

MAURITIUS.
Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

WEST INDIES.
Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

BRITISH HONDURAS.
Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

BRITISH GUIANA.
Financial Situation Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.
Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

PALESTINE.
Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).
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Chapter 1. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the facts that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "egreja") near Kansala in Foni, Bintang and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuko near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Philip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals".

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Nerico. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who also made his way up to the Nerico. Notwithstanding the fact that Jobson in his "The Golden Trade" gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia, the patentees, who had been involved by these trading ventures in considerable losses, did not further prosecute the exploration of the Gambia but confined their attentions to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barracunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the nephew and godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Cape St. Mary), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Cape St. Mary. During the next eight years a very flourishing trade was carried on between the Gambia and Courland. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons.

who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven European in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1672 the Royal Adventurers sold their forts and factories to the Royal African Company, which was incorporated in that year by royal charter.

In 1678 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1686 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1856.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1703, and 1709, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1720 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort by stratagem and held it to a ransom of two thousand pounds. An even more serious disaster occurred in the following year, when the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Major John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's ships themselves turned pirate. Finally

in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moor's "Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa." Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequence of which was that they were obliged to call in their outfactors on the continent.....By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Superintendent of Trade was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company.

In 1787 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was purchased by the British government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Ansley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Ansleys to Major Houghton (1791), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1795 James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association, to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars the British were in possession of St. Louis and Goree, but it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that these places should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the very extensive traffic in slaves, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels in the River Gambia, the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On April 23, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In the following year the King of Kombo made a similar cession of territory on the south bank. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement

for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. Further cessions of other tracts of land near the mouth of the river and also further upstream were obtained in subsequent years. In 1856 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British Governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance, but these boundaries were not actually surveyed until 1905–06 when a Boundary Commission carried out the work.

In the meantime, despite a number of petty wars, the Gambian government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fuladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to, but merely placed under the protection of the British government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos, Fulas, and Jolas. Nearly all of these are Mohammedans, except the last named tribe who are pagan; the Mohammedan religion is, however, gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 45,718. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dankunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 40,222. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 61,062. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts, while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 37,970. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinka districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy, though, with better sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1936.

CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches).
January	76.3	44	—
February	72.6	49	—
March	74.4	55	—
April	75.2	63	—
May	76.5	63	0.07
June	81.9	64	4.08
July	74.6	89	11.70
August	79.0	75	25.39
September	82.8	80	12.37
October	84.7	77	2.71
November	79.1	56	0.67
December	76.9	56	—
		Total ...	56.99

Other Records of Rainfall were:—

Bathurst	66.90 inches
Yoroberi-kunda, MacCarthy Island Province	45.49 „
Wuli, Upper River Province ...	58.75 „

Chapter II. Government.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated) Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo, all of which are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), some official Members, including the Members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System—This system was introduced in 1894 by an "Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of "certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by "Commissioners", (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that "All "native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories, which are "not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance "of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have "the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance". The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms:—

"31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—

(*a*) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description.

(*b*) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate;

(*c*) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner's Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads "Every person employed

"by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order "lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a "person authorised to execute Process of the Supreme Court."

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933) The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail, are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headman) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than did the Protectorate Ordinance 1913 the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules which governed these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law which existed under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913, until April 1935. At that time this Ordinance was, in view of the frequent amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933, re-enacted in a consolidated form.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to

act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or most commands the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a chief. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

The former system of advances of seed ground-nuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a rule under which every cultivator of ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Ample supplies of home-grown food-stuffs are now being produced and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

Local Government. In 1935 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health, formed in 1931 for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst, gave place to the Bathurst Advisory Town Council.

The constitution of the new Council is the same as that of the old, and is made up of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst, and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

Meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the Members of these Councils both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.

Chapter III. Population.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows:—

Mandinko	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only, as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Birth Rate per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered.)
1932 ...	339	2·3	355	2·4	242
1933 ...	331	2·3	368	2·5	290
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265
1935 ...	386	2·7	452	3·18	310·8
1936* ...	357	2.5	431	3.05	369

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burials permits being required in all cases), in some instances births of infants, in particular to illiterate parents, are not reported.

It is likely, however, that registration of births will soon become more accurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

*1936 figures based on estimated population of 14,141.

With regard to the infantile mortality rate the figure given for 1936 is for the whole of Bathurst; of the 357 births 101 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 101 infants 11 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 128·7 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the infantile mortality rate of 369 for the whole of Bathurst.

Emigration and immigration.

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the beginning of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows:—817 in 1933, 530 in 1934, 518 in 1935, and 855 in 1936; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who:—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,
(*b*) is an idiot or insane,
(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,
(*d*) is a prostitute, or
(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount. At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health.

Much work must be done before the Colony can be styled healthy. Infantile mortality figures remain high and there are far too many cases of preventable disease.

The problem is largely one of proper and efficient sanitation and to this the Government continues to pay strict attention.

Steady progress has been made in improving the sanitation of the town of Bathurst.

The disposal of rubbish is now very satisfactory; large public dustbins are cleared daily by an efficient lorry service, and the rubbish removed to an incinerator site. Incombustible refuse is used for swamp reclamation.

New and satisfactory public latrines have been erected throughout the town.

Inspection of most compounds is done weekly, and the larval index is practically zero.

With the postponement of the reclamation scheme, arrangements have been made for extra temporary pumping plant to alleviate the condition of Bathurst in the rains.

As formally, diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems are the most prevalent in Bathurst with totals for the former of 6,151 and for the latter 4,438. The incidence of malaria rises towards the middle of the rains; there is also a smaller rise in February following the very low temperatures of the preceding month. The number of patients treated for trypanosomiasis still increases totalling 1,972 for the year. There is also a marked increase in the incidence of yaws (4,046 cases). This disease is rare in Bathurst but the incidence increases with distance from the sea.

This year has seen the opening of a small hospital of twelve beds at Bwiam and a dispensary at Kaiaff. A Child Welfare Clinic in the Protectorate has also been started.

There are in Bathurst a European and African General Hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics, while the service in the Protectorate consists (in addition to the hospital at Bwiam and Kaiaff Dispensaries) of a general hospital at Georgetown and two dispensaries at Basse and Kau-ur.

Chapter V. Housing.

The very important question of Housing still engrosses the attention of Government. New Building Regulations were passed in 1936.

With these enforced and a competent Building Inspector one may hope for improvement. Up to the present little change has taken place, and many of the dwellings form ideal resting places for rats.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. In many places there is distinct improvement both in type and construction — but in nearly all cases there is inadequate provision for ventilation.

There is little sign of an organised lay-out in the villages and huts are crowded together—a condition of affairs only too suitable for the spread of disease.

An organised attempt is being made to improve sanitary conditions in the villages, particularly in relation to protection of water supplies and hygienic night soil disposal and there are definite signs of improvement in those towns where sanitary inspectors have been stationed.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	35,970	22,437
South Bank Province	61,062	27,519
MacCarthy Island Province ...	40,222	25,045
Upper River Province	43,718	24,810
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	3,177

* Census figures 1931.

Chapter VI. Production.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

Attention is being directed to improvement in the preparation of hides and some success has been attained. Efforts are also to be directed towards creating a wider interest in the Oil Palm. Up to the present, propaganda to clean beeswax before sale has met with little success. Other exportable crops are under trial by the Agricultural Department.

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of food stuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Owing to the danger of frequent locust invasions of recent years there have been risks of food shortage as the major crops grown are grains which the locusts attack. Efforts to increase areas under cassava and pigeon pea, (crops not attacked by locusts) are proving successful, particularly in the former case. The food of the people is most important from the agricultural point of view at present, and apart from the distribution of improved types of the local foods others are under trial which will vary the diet.

Cotton is grown to some extent, particularly in the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of cloth. Experiments are being conducted in connection with the cultivation of crops under irrigation during the dry season, and so far results have been fairly satisfactory. Improvements in the primitive cultivation practised are desirable and trials by the Agricultural Department with local cattle trained to the plough are promising. A few interested Chiefs have sent cattle in for training.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Tons.	Value. £
1932	37,315	391,659
1933	67,370	500,766
1934	71,919	387,345
1935	45,110	368,887
1936	49,654	427,317

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1936 the exports of these commodities were:—

Palm Kernels	626 tons	value	£4,858
Hides & Skins	116,306 lbs.	„	1,839
Wax	32,573 „	„	909

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia, although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1935 some 1,667 head of cattle were reported to have died of rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

During April and May of 1933 the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria and the Veterinary Pathologist visited the country to investigate the situation and outline a scheme to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of their visit and as a result of their investigations an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was begun in November 1933 when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary Officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and MacCarthy Island Provinces.

In both November 1935 and November 1936, the Veterinary Pathologist was seconded from Nigeria and continued to inoculate cattle in MacCarthy Island Province and Upper River Province.

That the cattle owners appreciate the value of immunization has been shown by the many requests for inoculation from the adjoining districts where inoculations have not yet been undertaken.

There is no doubt but that with each succeeding season these demands will increase and the success of the scheme is assured.

Rinderpest has been in the past the great obstacle to the development of the cattle breeding industry, but effective control of this disease is in sight and it is anticipated with confidence that in the near future the industry will be restored to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist in the Colony and there are no important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

Imports and Exports.

Imports.

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	292,700	435,902	327,185	483,287	582,267
Specie	5,141	13,966	4,326	30,000	200
Total ...	297,841	449,868	331,511	513,287	582,467

The following table shows the principal items of imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1936.

Articles.	United Kingdom	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries	Total.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	6,111	873	2,994	—	9,978
Bags and Sacks ...	553	2,389	177	132,728 no.	3,119
(*a*) Boots, Shoes and Slippers ...	389	285	2,721	38,395 prs.	3,395
Coal	3,294	—	72	1,953 tons.	3,366
Cotton Piece Goods	166,609	2,633	15,085	8,783,880 sq.yds.	184,327
Cotton Manufactures (other) ...	4,900	—	9,522	—	14,422
Cotton Yarn ...	13,823	—	1,225	197,419 lbs.	15,048
Flour Wheaten ...	3,427	2,762	2,773	13,877 cwts.	8,962
(*b*) Hats and Caps	1,011	278	5,260	—	6,549
Kola-Nuts ...	—	46,155	33	29,492 cwts.	46,188
Metals (all kinds)	12,044	9	20,280	—	32,333
Motor Vehicles ...	3,072	4,221	1,335	65 no.	8,628
Oils, edible ...	7,134	4	2,636	70,795 galls.	9,774
(*c*) Oils, not edible	708	436	9,534	246,781 „	10,678
Rice	—	58,836	98	149,563 cwts.	58,934
Soap	7,423	—	458	7,488 „	7,881
(*d*) Sugar ...	7,993	—	5,467	19,331 „	13,460
Tobacco ...	6,977	3,054	2,108	180,711 lbs.	12,139

(*a*). Including £1,807 from Czechoslovakia.
850 „ Morocco.
(*b*). Including 2,407 „ France.
1,823 „ Germany.
(*c*). Including 6,791 „ U. S. America.
(*d*). „ 7,993 „ United Kingdom.

The percentages of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, were as follows:—

Country.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	51.02	50.34	42.43	46.32	53.60
British Possessions ...	15.07	16.66	22.32	27.31	23.15
Foreign Countries ...	33.91	33.00	35.25	26.37	23.25
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of imports for the last five years:—

Article.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	3 10. 10½	2 11. 9¾	2 6. 0	2 2. 8	2 2. 5½
Coal per ton	2 8. 11¾	2 12. 5	1 14. 8	1 17. 6	1 14. 5¾
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yd.	0 0. 4	0 0. 4¼	0 0. 4¼	0 0. 5	0 0. 5
Cotton Yarn per lb.	0 1. 1½	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 5¼	0 1. 6¼
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	0 12. 6¼	0 10. 1	0 8. 10	0 11. 1	0 12. 11
Kola Nuts per cwt.	1 10. 0	1 15. 3¼	1 7. 6½	1 15. 6	1 11. 3¾
Oils Edible per gall.	0 2. 5¼	0 1. 11¾	0 2. 3½	0 2. 7¼	0 2. 9
Rice per cwt.	0 9. 7½	0 7. 1¾	0 6. 11¼	0 7. 9¾	0 7. 10½
Salt per ton.	1 13. 4¾	1 11. 7¼	1 12. 5	1 10. 8¾	1 8. 10
Sugar per cwt.	0 17. 2	0 17. 0¼	0 16. 0½	0 14. 8½	0 13. 10¾
Tea per lb.	0 1. 9	0 1. 9	0 1. 8½	0 1. 7¾	0 1. 5

Exports.

The exports for the last five years including specie were as follows :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	406,894	515,208	401,849	392,724	445,404
Specie	199,620	—	53,900	103,980	55,834
Total ...	606,514	515,208	455,749	496,704	501,238

The following table shows the principal items of export to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1936.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides and Skins.		Palm Kernels.		Beeswax.	
	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	9,029	79,582	51,199	731	415	3,171	32,573	909
British Possessions	12	127	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	10,338	89,683	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark ...	11,174	104,887	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	65,017	1,108	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	6,210	49,680	—	—	211	1,687	—	—
Holland	12,652	101,229	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	239	2,129	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	49,654	427,317	116,306	1,839	626	4,858	32,573	909

The percentages of British and foreign exports, exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	20.66	34.06	11.26	23.67	19.50
British Possessions ...	00.89	01.23	01.14	00.54	00.35
Total British Empire ...	21.55	35.29	12.40	24.21	19.85
Belgium	06.51	00.04	05.75	21.24	20.14
Denmark	—	03.02	06.33	19.51	23.54
Germany	00.92	05.94	50.09	10.27	12.20
Holland	10.73	15.59	24.34	21.25	22.72
Other Countries ...	60.29	40.12	01.09	03.52	01.55
Total Foreign Countries ...	78.45	64.71	87.60	75.79	80.15

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	10. 9.11	7. 8. 8	5. 7. 9	8. 3. 7	8. 12. 1½
Hides & Skins per lb.	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 3	0. 0. 3	0. 0. 3¾
Palm Kernels per ton	7. 13. 8¾	6. 16. 6	4. 18. 1	6. 11. 4	7. 15. 2½
Beeswax per lb.	0. 0. 7¼	0. 0. 5¾	0. 0. 5¾	0. 0. 5¾	0. 0. 6¾

Shipping.

The percentages of shipping of various nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	%	%	%	%	%
British	57.2	56.7	53.31	55.74	72.05
French	21.8	20.3	12.57	9.63	9.63
Dutch	2.7	2.5	1.71	1.55	2.22
German	4.6	8.0	20.54*	22.39*	6.58*
Norwegian...	3.0	4.6	3.96	3.68	4.32
American	5.7	1.9	3.93	3.48	1.55
Italian	—	1.0	0.37	—	—
Swedish	4.9	3.3	2.34	2.07	0.82
Danish	—	0.3	0.37	0.43	1.25
Other Countries	0.1	1.4	0.90	1.03	1.58

* Includes catapult vessels of Deutsche Luft Hansa, A.G.

Chapter VIII. Wages and Cost of Living.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives from French territory enter Bathurst to obtain employment, whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

Rates of pay.

The rates of pay for artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths, fitters, masons, and painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day (8 hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows :—

(*a*) those on a monthly wage,
(*b*) those on a daily wage, and
(*c*) farm labourers.

(*a*) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in most cases, a monthly issue of 45 lbs. of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (e.g. sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/9 to 2/6 a day. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

(*b*) Daily wage labourers receive from 1/- to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(*c*) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crops is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local natives, each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subjects referred to above.

Cost of living.

In the Protectorate, rice and guinea-corn form the staple diet of the people, whilst a considerable amount of bread, sugar, salt and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer. The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows :—

Rice or corn	3*d.*
Bread	1*d.*
Fish	1*d.*
Oil	1*d.*
Sugar	½*d.*
Condiments	½*d.*
Total	7*d.*

Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1d.

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/– a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for himself is rather less than in Bathurst.

The average prices of foodstuffs in 1936 as compared with those obtaining before the war are shown in the following table, which gives a few examples :—

	1936 (average)	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	25/–	33/–
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/1	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	17/6	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/8	4/–
Sugar per lb.	3*d.*	5½*d.*

Cost of living. European Government Officials.

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst :

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Firewood	9
Electric Light	10
Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc.)	40
Provisions and Wines	125
Tobacco	10
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme contribution	24
Miscellaneous expenditure including equipment	35
Total	£335

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

Chapter IX. Education and Welfare Institutions.

In November, 1935, a new Education Ordinance came into force. It was drafted with a view to placing the method of assessing Grants-in-Aid on a more regularised basis, making provision, on the lines of legislation in other Colonies, for the more efficient supervision of the work done in schools, and making the Board of Education an advisory body with a wider and freer scope for criticism and discussion. The new Board of Education, presided over by the Superintendent of Education, consists of one representative from each mission or educational body working in the Colony or Protectorate appointed by the Governor, together with not less than three other members of whom one must be an African, and one a woman. It is the duty of the Board to consider the reports on schools laid before it by the Superintendent of Education and to advise Government thereon; to recommend to the Governor any changes in regulations, and to make any reports which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, and the department is administered by the Superintendent of Education, a duty post held by an Administrative Officer. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

Elementary and secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants, and a Committee of leading Mohammedans runs the Mohammedan School, an elementary school. These schools are all aided by grants from Government which maintains also a Manual Training Centre at the Public Works Department. There is no university education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which in 1936 had a total of 1,856 pupils on the registers (1,256 boys and 600 girls) and an average attendance of 1,037. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst; two for boys, and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Methodist Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1936 were 52 boys and 118 girls with average attendances of 39 and 80 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government. There is also a secondary class with 5 boys maintained by the Anglican Mission.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1936 there were 13 students on the register.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with 38 on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools which would have only a local effect. The Methodist

Mission maintains a small day school in Georgetown, and the Anglican Mission two day schools (unassisted) in the Protectorate.

A committee was appointed in 1932 to draw up a revised syllabus for use in the Bathurst elementary schools. The new syllabus, after approval by the Board of Education, came into use on the 1st January, 1934, and has, it is hoped, considerably assisted educational progress in the Gambia.

The following examinations were held during the year: Cambridge Senior, Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination; Elementary Schools Standard VII. Examination.

Welfare Institutions, etc.

Free Medical Treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV, the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreations, etc.

In Bathurst, Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground is to be constructed in Half Die, Bathurst. Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once a week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public, and during the dry weather in MacCarthy Square. The concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter X. Communications and Transport.

External.

For mail services the colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd. There is a regular monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government continued the agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and Europe. This company operates a service weekly throughout the year.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Frankfurt—Marseille—Lisbon—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The Luft Hansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, a catapult ship, four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and air planes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only.

The airships Graf Zeppelin and Hindenburg during October and November made four visits to the Jeshwang aerodrome, while the catapult ship and airplanes were undergoing repair.

The outward mail leaves London on Wednesday evening, Frankfurt on Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrives in Bathurst on Friday at 1 a.m.; formerly the mail was transferred to the catapult ship, which proceeded to sea and after 36 hours' steaming catapulted off a flying boat. Now the trans-Atlantic crossing is effected direct from Bathurst, and the mail reaches South America on Friday at 8 p.m.

The homeward mail plane leaves Natal on Friday, arriving in Bathurst on Saturday morning. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which leaves Bathurst on Saturday morning, arrives in Frankfurt on Sunday afternoon and in London on Monday afternoon.

Bathurst Harbour.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages off shore vary from 9 to 14 fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. There is sufficient water at the entrance for vessels of 27 feet draft to enter the harbour.

Government Wharf has been reconstructed, the wooden decking having been replaced by ferro-concrete; underwater piles have been refitted, and an up-to-date system of rails installed. Two 2½ ton petrol cranes are now in operation. The "T" head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 13 feet close alongside at L.W.O.S.T. There are eleven other wharves which are from 100 to 200 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1½ hours after high and low water by the shore; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream considerable swirls sometimes occur at springs during and immediately after the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well marked by a light vessel, buoys, and light structures.

Internal.

River Transport.

The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than 12 feet draught, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntau-ur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draught of 19 feet. Vessels not exceeding 6 feet 6 inches in draught can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

Marine Department.

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons). Two Government lighters "Vampire" (170 tons) and "Jean Maurel" (174 tons) are also available for additional cargoes; the latter is self-propelled.

The steamers call at 28 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles) and 33 ports when calling at Fattoto (288 miles). This ensures communication with all ports in the Protectorate twice weekly during the trade season from November to May. A fortnightly or monthly service is maintained for the remainder of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows:—

	1934	1935	1936
Passengers carried ...	7,791	10,057	12,751
Cargo (tons) ...	5,391	4,211	6,076
Revenue from passenger traffic ...	£2,795. 12. 7.	£3,501. 13. 7.	£3,952. 0. 0.
Revenue from freight ...	£3,709. 10. 1.	£3,837. 14. 7.	£4,069. 0. 0.

The refitting of Government steamers and vessels belonging to the firms is carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries.

Passenger and vehicular ferries, installed by Government in connection with the road system plied at the following points :—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)
Brumen (connecting roads Nos. 1 & 3)
Lamin Koto — MacCarthy Island
Sankulikunda — MacCarthy Island
Bansang, Basse, Fattoto, Kaur-Jessadi — continuation of Road No. 2

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1936.

Roads.

There are four trunk roads, which are except for No. 1 unmetalled.

No. 1. Bathurst-Jeswang-Abuko-Lamin-Yundum-Brikama-Kafuta-N'Demban-Bwiam-Brumen Ferry. ($90\frac{3}{4}$ miles). This road is metalled as far as Brikama.

No. 2. Barra-Berrending (Bantanding)-Dasilami-Kerewan Ferry-Saba-Banni-N'Jakunda-Illiassa. (62 miles).

No. 3. Illiassa-Katchang-Konkoba-Kwinella-Jataba-Brumen Ferry. ($22\frac{1}{2}$ miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French boundary. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on trunk road No. 2) to the French boundary. ($\frac{3}{4}$ mile).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa *via* Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the south bank running from Kwinella, (on trunk road No. 3) to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows :—

North Bank Province	116 miles
South Bank Province	95 „
MacCarthy Island Province ...	280 „
Upper River Province	200 „

Postal Services.

Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The Kuntau-ur office is closed during the rainy season (June to October).

The total number of letters, postcards, papers etc., dealt with during 1936 was 227,496—an increase of 5,325 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,872 as compared with 3,911 in 1935. In addition, 1503 small postal packets were dealt with. 16,510 airmail letters were despatched and 7,920 were received during the year.

Money and Postal Order Statistics are as follows :—

	1935	1936
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	17,536	17,922
Revenue derived from Money Orders	104	106
Postal Orders issued & paid	7,633	7,696
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	61	62

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1936 was £5,260 as compared with £6,785 in 1935.

Telephone Service.

A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and at Cape St Mary, the total number of subscribers exclusive of extensions, being 96. The total value of the service was £653, of which amount £447 represented the value of free service to Government Departments.

Wireless Service.

Internal communication is maintained by four wireless stations established at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The station at Bathurst has a range of 500 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the Wireless service in 1936 was £1,042 including £362 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1935 were £871 and £359 respectively.

Telegraph Cables.

There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia.

The Eastern Telegraph Company Ltd., has a station in Bathurst and cables run to Sierra Leone to the South and St. Vincent to the north.

Chapter XI. Banking, Currency, Weights & Measures.

Banks.

The only Bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Post Office Savings Bank, the rate of interest being 2½ per cent per annum. At the 31st of December 1936 the deposits amounted to £4,418 in respect of 1,117 depositors

Currency.

The Currency is British West African alloy and nickel bronze coins of denominations 2/–, 1/–, 6d., 3d., 1d., & ½d; and British West African currency notes of 20/– & 10/– denominations.

Stocks of currency are held on behalf of the West African currency board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required against payment in London.

The value of the notes in circulation on the 31st December 1936 was £239,600 as compared with £232,984 on the 31st December 1935 whilst alloy coins to the value of £358,100 were in circulation at the end of 1936 as against £250,522, at the end of the previous year.

Weights and Measures.

Standard weights and measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial measures of capacity, length and surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, of 1902 and are kept by the Government. The Commissioner of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the Annual Estimates and for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen, and three African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of an Accountant and nine African Clerks.

In addition the Department operates the electric light and power services comprising some 42 miles of distribution mains, the ice making plant, the Albert Market refrigerating plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the fire protection plant and the Government motor transport service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and in the Protectorate the main road from Bathurst which branches to Cape St. Mary and to the Kombo North and Central Districts, and certain other trunk roads are similarly maintained.

Activities during 1936:—

(*a*) Maintenance. (Expenditure £13,893).

Bathurst Water Supply.

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1936 was 47,485,000 gallons.

The rates changed are as follows:—

General Water Rate	1½% on rateable value.
Water supply rate	£2 per annum.
Supply rate to vessels	1/4d. per 100 gallons.
Meter rate	1/6d. per 1,000 gallons.
Washing out ground nut stores ...	£2 10/- per hour.

Revenue 1936:—

General and Supply rates	£608 9 1
Supply to vesssels	238 18 4
Meter rate	14 13 0
	£862 0 5

Water supplied to the following metered consumers was:—

R. W. A. F. F.	765,550	gallons
Prison	978,259	„
Botanical Gardens, Cape St. Mary ...	713,292	„
Cooling Plant, Albert Market, Bathurst	308,854	„
Power Station	125,897	„
Marine Department	296,937	„
	3,188,789	

Electric Light and Power Services.

The Power Station is situated in the centre of the Town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of five solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators 1 x 220 K.W., 2 x 100 K.W., 1 x 50 K.W., and 1 x 25 K.W. Total 495 K.W.

System A.C. 3 Phase 4 wire 50 periods. Consumers voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Feeder and distributors overhead cable.

Number of private consumers 248, an increase of 14 during the year.

Supply commenced June 1926.

Total units generated 1936, 371,725.

Maximum load recorded 129 K.W.

Total connected load 567 K.W.

Total motors connected 279 B. H. P.

Public lighting 350 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some 9½ miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 30 K. V. A. transformer at the north end of the town—the voltage being stepped-up to 3,300 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Capt St. Mary 8 miles away, where it feeds a 15 K. V. A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about 2 miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1936 were as follows :—

(*a*) Units sold			82,061
(*b*) Ice Factory			6,760
(*c*) Public Services, Street Lighting ...	112,350		
(*d*) „ „ Government House ...	16,668		
(*e*) „ „ Hospital, Clinics, etc. ...	24,822		
(*f*) „ „ Market	7,439		
(*g*) „ „ Police Station & Prison	8,891		
(*h*) „ „ Customs Shed & Wharf	1,775		
(*i*) „ „ Half Die Pumping Station	3,842		
(*j*) „ „ Post Office, Wireless, Telephones and Wireless Station ...	6,511		
(*k*) „ „ Public Works Department	9,386		
(*l*) „ „ Marine	16,600		
(*m*) „ „ Printing Office	2,179		
(*n*) „ „ Other Government Offices	3,582	214,045	
Carried Forward			302,866

	Brought forward	302,866
(*o*)	Power Station (auxiliaries)	48,460
(*p*)	Lost in distribution	20,399
	Total Units generated	371,725

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1936 c maintenance amounted to £2,548.

Ice Factory.

The Public Works Department also run and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to approximately 24¾ tons.

Market Cold Store.

A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 176 tons of meat passed through this storage last year.

(*b*) CONSTRUCTION, ETC. (Expenditure £13,431)

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

	£
Sanitary Works	2,609
Consolidation of Roads	1,371
Experimental Training Bank	1,350
Minor Works	766

Colonial Development Schemes.

The extension of the Electric Light service (expenditure for the year £7,354) and the Development of water supplies (£4,617) were commenced in the early part of the year and satisfactory progress has been made.

Anti-malaria and anti-yellow fever measures.

The extraordinary measures adopted in 1935 in the campaign against malaria and yellow fever became in 1936 part of the routine work of the Public Works and Health Departments.

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court, the Coroner's Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1905. It is presided over by a Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Bathurst Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court which is a Subordinate Court of the first class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 7), pass the following sentences :—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £200.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a variety of matters is conferred by a number of local Ordinances.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the second class and may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8) pass the following sentences :—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £50.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the first class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners, who are Justices of the Peace. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a Superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals.

from the Subordinate Courts, the Judge reviews criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate, if necessity arises.

The Supreme Court has the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as it possesses in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

The Protectorate Courts are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Provincial Court Ordinance, 1935 and are presided over by a Commissioner, or an Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissioner, they are Subordinate Courts of the first class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q.v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides the Court is a Subordinate Court of the second class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q.v.). Provincial Courts have a civil jurisdiction in all claims up to £100. An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court in a criminal matter.

Native Tribunals were established in each District by the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, constituted by native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, succession, the rights of parents and guardianship, when the parties are both Mohammedans, and the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a Native Tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades with the following jurisdiction :—

Grade A.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by nine months' imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine.
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damages does not exceed £50.

Grade B.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by six months' imprisonment or a fine of £10 or both such imprisonment and fine.
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £25.

The Commissioner of the Province has wide powers of control and revision over the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

Coroner's Court.

A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioners.

Judicial Staff.

There are one Judge, one Magistrate, thirty one Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi and approximately two hundred members of Native Tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees.

Crime.

In the Colony 592 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 489 persons in 1935. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 996 offences as compared with 797 offences in 1935.

The number of criminal informations filed in the Supreme Court was 23.

Statistics for the year 1936.

Criminal.

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	28	13	—	15
Police Court ...	592	109	4	479
Provincial Courts :—				
North Bank Province ...	34	6	—	28
South Bank Province ...	69	3	7	59
MacCarthy Is. Province	58	3	1	54
Upper River Province ...	55	1	6	48
Native Tribunals :—				
North Bank Province ...	109	2	—	107
South Bank Province ...	240	5	—	235
MacCarthy Is. Province	266	12	—	254
Upper River Province ...	165	24	—	141

Civil.

Supreme Court	...	19	cases
Mohammedan Court	...	112	„
Court of Requests	...	1,368	„
Provincial Courts	...	71	„
Native Tribunals	...	573	„

Police.

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Superintendent of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Chief Inspector of Police and the Bandmaster. These Officers, with the exception of the Bandmaster, were formerly styled Commissioner of Police, Assistant Commissioner of Police and Superintendent of Police respectively. The African personnel consists of a Pay Clerk and Quartermaster, an Inspector of Police, four Sub-Inspectors and 120 other ranks including 25 Band.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of weights and measures, traffic control, fire fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

Maintenance of Law and Order.

Statistics.

	1935.	1936.
Cases dealt with ...	... 660	404
Prosecutions conducted ...	... 489	301
Inquest summonses served	... 15	13
Convictions obtained (persons)	... 459	264
Warrants executed ...	... 1	12
Summonses and subpoena served	... 902	502

Issue of Licences.

Motor Vehicle ...	... 336	441
Dog	... 63	38
Firearms	... 145*	154*
Domestic Servant ...	... 495	353
Motor Driver ...	... 495	512
Liquor	... 25	11
Entertainment ...	... 9	15

* Bathurst only.

Traffic control.

Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Bureau.

The Bureau, which was organised in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and measures are dealt with in Chapter XI.

Relations with the Public.

Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.

Being an armed Force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instruction :—

Law and general police duties.
Observation training.
Traffic control.
Physical training.
Infantry drill.
Musketry.
Fire drill.

Health

The health of the Force during 1936 was good.

Band.

The public concerts given weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

PRISON.

In the Gambia the main Prison is situated at Bathurst, but there is a native prison at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island Province. The buildings of the Prison at Bathurst which were formerly used as an isolation hospital were converted into a prison in 1920. They are of solid construction, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and a pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three association wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out-houses. The warders are accommodated close to the prison.

Staff.

The staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Superintendent of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Superintendent of Police), an African Chief Warder and twenty-three other African warders.

Health.

The prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1936 was good, the daily average number of sick being ·39 per cent of the average daily number in the prison.

Visiting Committee.

The prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Assistant Receiver General and an African Member of the Legislative Council. In addition, all Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.

On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.

Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of Prisoners.

In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking etc., the prisoners are employed on minor public works under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1936, 10,980 lbs of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.

The discipline during 1936 was good, 25 offences being recorded. Three prisoners escaped. Two were recaptured and one was still at large on 31st December, 1936.

	1935.	1936.
Admissions	292	222
Discharges	234	210
Average daily number of prisoners	75.5	64.7

Chapter XIV Legislation.

During 1936 twenty-four Ordinances were enacted. The only ones which call for any comment are:—

The Plant Importation and Regulation Ordinance—making provision with regard to the importation of plants with a view to the prevention of the introduction and spread of pests and diseases affecting vegetation.

The Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance—making provision for the enforcement in the Gambia of judgments given in foreign countries which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in the Gambia, and for facilitating the enforcement in foreign countries of judgments given in the Gambia.

The Savings Bank Ordinance—making provision for the establishment of a Government Savings Bank.

The Educational Films (Exemption from Duty) Ordinance—providing for the exemption from customs duty of films of an educational character and giving effect to the International Convention for Facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character.

The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance—providing that the registered proprietor of any design registered in the United Kingdom shall enjoy in the Colony the like privileges and rights as though the Certificate of Registration in the United Kingdom had been issued with an extension to the Colony.

The Naval Volunteer and Defence Ordinance—making provision for the discipline, service and training of the Gambia Naval Volunteer Force.

Chapter XV. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years were :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1927	£252,419	£277,625
1928	255,385	250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015
1933	231,787	180,161
1934	221,564	174,663
1935	245,485	194,669
1936	257,180	209,000

Development Loan.

On the 1st February, 1933, the Crown Agents for the Colonies arranged a loan for the purpose of meeting part of the cost of development works undertaken in the Colony viz:—improvement of roads, water supply and wharf.

The amount of stock issued was £38,759 13 9 at £97 per cent bearing 3½ per cent interest per annum. The loan is redeemable in 30 years and a sinking fund contribution is made at the rate of 1·9 per cent per annum. At the close of the year the sinking fund stood at £3,028.

Government Funds.

(*a*)	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1936 ...	£226,374
(*b*)	Reserve	127,390
(*c*)	Steamer Depreciation Reserve	16,727
		£370,491

Taxation.

The main sources of Revenue from taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows:—

Customs Import Duties.	1932 £	1933 £	1934 £	1935 £	1936. £
Ad valorem	18,588	18,480	8,392	10,519	10,227
Specific :—					
Kola Nuts	29,294	33,528	38,559	54,689	55,059
Kerosene & Petroleum	2,600	4,789	6,151	7,872	5,808
Spirits ...	2,463	2,461	3,430	3,906	3,369
Tobacco ...	10,821	14,704	8,974	17,150	14,764

	1932 £	1933 £	1934 £	1935 £	1936. £
Sugar ...	—	—	2,695	4,355	4,796
Cottons ...	—	—	14,273	22,395	34,549
Wines ...	1,623	2,194	1,353	2,438	2,060
Other articles	8,030	36,979	12,515	14,028	13,371
Rice ...	7,984	9,893	9,120	13,774	16,212
Parcel Post	517	524	492	530	427
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-nuts	18,520	33,609	35,666	22,358	24,594
Total Customs Duties.	£100,440	£157,161	£141,620	£174,014	£185,236
Port Dues	2,324	2,773	2,768	3,023	3,625
Protectorate Taxes	8,370	14,187	13,638	11,365	13,332
Trade Licences	1,968	3,111	3,195	3,347	3,865
Other Licences Liquor, Motor Car etc.	2,435	1,883	2,126	2,627	2,231
Town Rates	2,584	2,057	2,242	1,978	1,523
TOTAL	£118,121	£181,172	£165,589	£196,354	£209,812

Excise and Stamp duties.

There are no excise duties. The revenue collected in 1936 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £166.

Yard Tax.

Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed:—

(*a*) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses 5/-

(*b*) For every additional Hut or House in the yard 1/6

(*c*) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier... 2/-

(*d*) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land 8/-

Chapter XVI.—Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are performed in regard to lands held under lease from Government, the revision and preparation of plans, valuations of properties and the assessment of rates for the town of Bathurst, etc.

Grants and Leases of public lands in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 21 years.

Plots at the various trading centres in the Protectorate or "Wharf Towns" as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10/- per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2 10 0 per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands and Wharf Licences in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £5,881 for the year 1936, whilst £87 was received in respect of survey fees. In 1935 the rents and rates amounted to £6,900 and the fees for surveys to £222. Expenditure was £1,885 in 1936 as compared with £1,708 in 1935.

Activities During 1936.

Surveys.

Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

Numerous surveys were carried out in Bathurst and position of all sanitary sites surveyed.

Sites for 4 new bungalows at Cape St. Mary on the Fajarra Estate were surveyed; compounds for 15 new bungalows were laid out.

The following surveys of wharf towns were revised :—

Jowara, Balangar, Kosema, Diabugu, Bansang, Kau-ur, Jisadi and Koina.

The towns of Bwiam and Bara were surveyed.

Plans.

107 plans were prepared in connection with lands and wharves granted or licensed.

273 plans were drawn in the records af the Colonial Registry.

34 tracings of plots and wharves surveyed, made. Maps of Bwiam and Bara re-drawn. Numerous plans, tracings and sun-prints supplied to other Departments.

Grants and Leases.

Thirty-seven grants, leases and wharf licences were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.

The Rating List for 1936 was completed early in the year and that for 1937 was prepared for public inspection. The Land Officer and Surveyor was the Chairman of the Rates Assessment Committee in 1936.

Miscellaneous.

The Land and Survey Department supplied the Public Works Department throughout the year with the correct local time for regulating the clocks.

Valuations of properties in Bathurst were made for the Curator of Intestate Estates.

Route Map.

Route Map of the Gambia shewing all possible information for travellers, was compiled, sun-print copies made and supplied to Michelin & Co.

Chapter XVII. Miscellaneous.

The outstanding event at the beginning of the year was for the Gambia, as for the whole Empire, the death of His Majesty King George V. A memorial service, attended by representatives of all classes of the community, was held in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral on January 28th, and testified to the affection which His late Majesty, in a long and eventful reign, had aroused in the hearts of his people.

The Accession of King Edward VIII was particularly welcome here as there were pleasant memories of His Majesty's visit to Bathurst in 1925. The news, therefore, of his decision to renounce the Throne was received with deep regret.

The Accession of His Majesty King George VI was proclaimed in MacCarthy Square, simultaneously with the proclamation in London.

On June 5th, His Excellency Sir Arthur Richards, K.C.M.G., left on leave prior to going to Fiji on transfer. On 22nd October His Excellency Sir Thomas Southorn, K.B.E., C.M.G., accompained by Lady Southorn, O.B.E., arrived in Bathurst and took the oaths of office.

H.M.S. "Milford" visited Bathurst for nine days in May, and H.M.S. "Rochester" for two days in November. H.M.S. "Amphion", the flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Tottenham, also made a two day stay in November.

On the 19th December, two flying-boats of the Royal Air Force visited Bathurst from Malta under the command of Air Commodore Maltby.

On the 14th May, Sir Malcolm Hailey and party arrived in Bathurst in the course of their tour of Africa on behalf of the African Research Survey.

During the cold weather at the beginning of the year, a number of pleasure cruise ships visited Bathurst.

Appendix I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

Name.	Address in the Gambia.	Address of Head Office outside the Gambia.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street Bathurst.	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4, England.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	Represented by Office Cooperatif de l'Afrique Francaise, 22 Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
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Appendix II.

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Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P.,(Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies), on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.	—	1926	Receiver General, Bathurst, and Crown Agents for the Colonies, London, Eng.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper B. Sc. (Eng.)	1927	do.	0	3	0
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A Short Study of the Western Mandinka Language.	W. T. Hamlyn	1935	do.	0	5	0
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Blue Book of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Report of the Agricultural Department(annual.)	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Report of the Education Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	2	0
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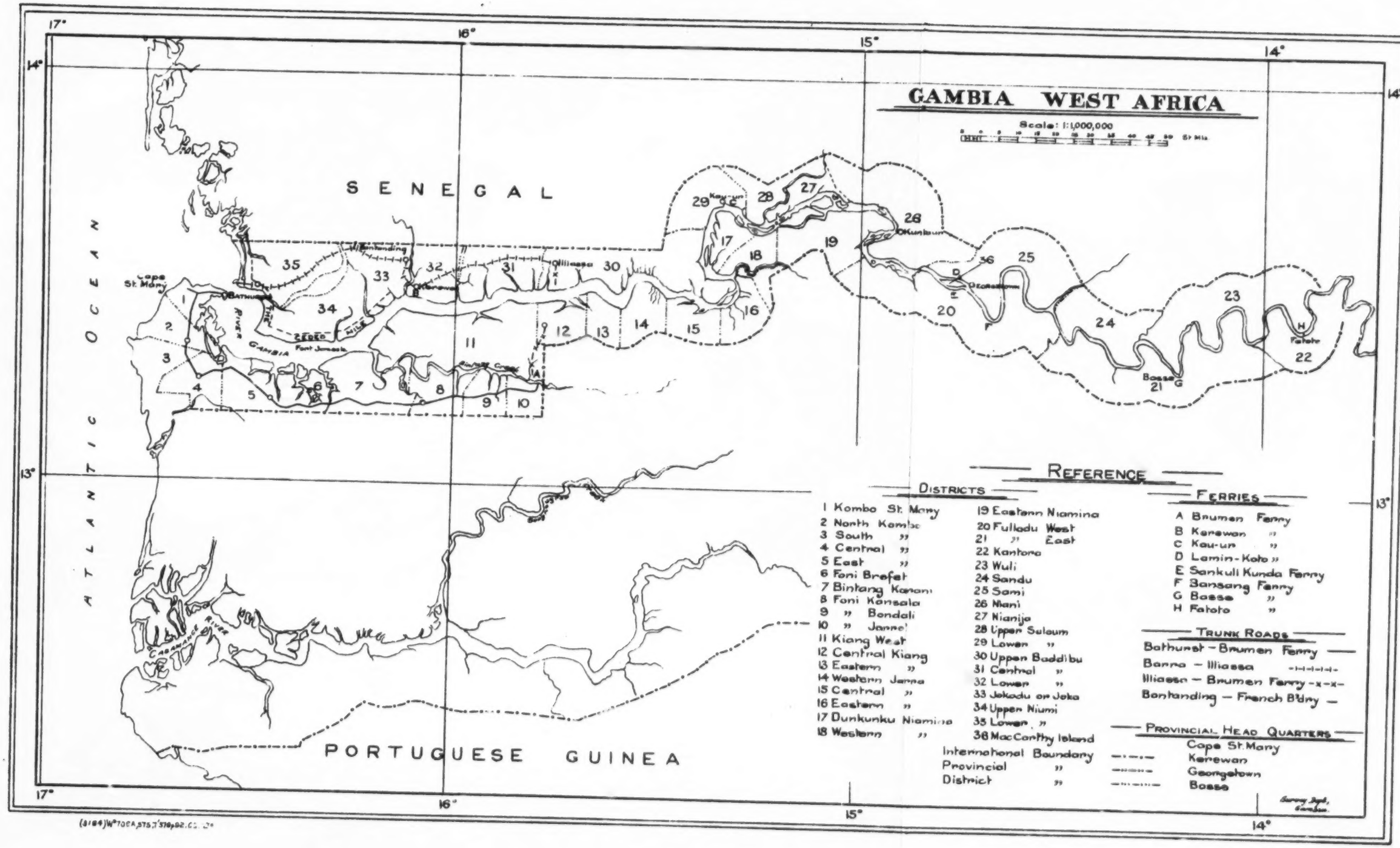

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6 Foni Brefet
7 Bintang Karoni
8 Foni Kansala
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10 " Janneh
11 Kiang West
12 Central Kiang
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14 Western Jarra
15 Central "
16 Eastern "
17 Dunkunku Niamina
18 Western "
19 Eastern Niamina
20 Fulladu West
21 " East
22 Kantora
23 Wuli
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27 Nianija
28 Upper Saloum
29 Lower "
30 Upper Baddibu
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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1937.

Chapter I. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the facts that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "igreja") near Kansala in Foni, and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuku near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Philip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters

patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals". In 1612 another attempt by the French to settle in the Gambia ended disastrously owing to sickness and mortality.

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618 The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Neriko. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who seized some Portuguese shipping as a reprisal for the massacre at Gassan. Jobson also made his way up to Neriko and subsequently gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia in his "Golden Trade." But both his and the previous expedition had resulted in considerable losses and a subsequent voyage, which he made in 1624, proved a complete failure. In the circumstances the patentees made no further attempt to exploit the resources of the Gambia, but confined their attention to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barakunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three Royalists ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native Chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Half Die), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from

Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Banyon Point. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner by the Swedes during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the reputed existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1667 the Royal Adventurers sublet their rights between Capes Blanco and Palmas to another body of adventurers, who

came to be known as the Gambia Adventurers. These latter Adventurers enjoyed those rights until 1678, when on the expiration of their lease they reverted to the Royal African Company, which had purchased the rights and property of the Royal Adventurers six years previously.

In 1677 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1681 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the native of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1857.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1704 and 1708, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the Wast African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1719 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort. An even more serious disaster occurred in 1721, when part of the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Captain John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's Ships, themselves turned pirate. Finally in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's " Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa ". Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be " in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not

being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequence of which was that they were obliged to call in their out-factors on the continent.....By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort " was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight ; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an act of parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed to taken charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1780 the French privateer " Sénégal " captured four vessels, which had been sent with part of the British garrison at Goree under the command of Major Houghton to the Bintang Creek to obtain building material. The " Sénégal " was in its turn attacked by H.M.S. " Zephyr " and captured after a very warm action off Barra Point, The prizes had in the meantime been destroyed, but the troops, who had taken refuge on shore and had been befriended by the Jolas of Foni, were rescued by the " Zephyr ".

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company, which, however, made no attempt to administer the Gambia.

In 1785 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was acquired by the British Government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1790), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Gray (1818) in the the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1794 on the representations of the African Association, James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

In 1807 the African slave trade was ablolished by Act of Parliament. At that date the British were in possession of Goree. With the co-operation of the Royal Navy the garrison of that fort made strenuous efforts to suppress the traffic in the River Gambia, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels. On more than one occasion the slavers offered a stubborn resistance and the Royal African Corps suffered severe casualties.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that Goree should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the traffic in slaves the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a miliuary base. On April 23, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a member of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to great Britain by the King of Barra. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. In 1840 and 1853 considerable areas of the mainland adjoining St. Mary's Island were obtained from the King of Kombo for the settlement of discharged soldiers of the West India Regiments and liberated Africans. Cessions of other tracts of land further upstream were obtained at various dates. In 1857 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British Governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England and the native inhabitants of the Gambia that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British Governments for the delimitation of the boundries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance.

In the meantime, despite a number of petty wars, the Gambian Government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fuladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to, but merely placed under the protection of the British Government. It was also

found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the Colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only sixty-nine square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory for the most part ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly 300 miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos, Fulas, and Jolas. Nearly all of these are Mohammedans, except the last name tribe who are pagan; the Mohammedan religion is, however, gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 45,259. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river ports in the Protectorate.

The district of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dunkunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square

miles and the population 42,596. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 73,853. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts, while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 40,219. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population ; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinko districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy, though, with better sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1937.

CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches).
January	74·4	40	—
February	77·1	53	—
March	74·7	63	—
April	71·0	70	—
May	75·9	71	—
June	79·7	89	0·91
July	80·6	72	6·69
August	80·4	76	18·93
September	79·8	80	11·55
October	77·6	71	2·49
November	80·7	57	0·03
December	74·7	39	—
		Total ...	40·60

Other Records of Rainfall were:—

Bathurst	39·37 inches
Yoroberi-kunda, MacCarthy Island Province	49·17 „
Wuli, Upper River Province	40·55 „

Chapter II. Government.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated), Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo, which, the Island of St. Mary excepted, are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), some official Members, including the members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an "Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected "Territories of certain powers and jurisdiction by Native "Authorities and by Commissioners", (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that "All native laws and customs in force in the "Protected Territories, which are not repugnant to natural "justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance of the Colony "which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have the same "effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance". The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms :—

> "31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—
>
> (*a*) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description.
>
> (*b*) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate;

(*c*) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner's Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was, provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads "Every person employed by a Headman or Native Court in "carrying into effect any order lawfully made, shall have the 'like protection for that purpose as a person authorised to "execute Process of the Supreme Court."

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headman) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than did the Protectorate Ordinance 1913 the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules which governed these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913, which was re-enacted in consolidated form in April 1935 on

account of the many amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali), the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or most commands the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of Seyfolu. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner. The former system of advances of seed ground-nuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a rule under which every cultivator of

ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Ample supplies of home-grown food-stuffs are now being produced and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities

Local Government.—In 1935 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health, formed in 1931 for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst, gave place to the Bathurst Advisory Town Council.

The constitution of the new Council is the same as that of the old, and is made up of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

Meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the Members of these Councils both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.

Chapter III. Population.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows:—

Mandinko	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only, as owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Rate Birth per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered.)
1933 ...	331	2·3	368	2·5	290
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265
1935 ...	386	2·7	452	3·18	310·8
1936 ...	357	2·5	431	3·05	369
1937* ...	370	2·63	414	2·92	254·1

*1937 figures based on estimated population of 14,097.

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burials permits being required in all

cases), in some instances births of infants, in particular to illiterate parents, are not reported.

It is likely, however, that registration of births will soon become more acurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years, and with the new scheme for registration of Unqualified Midwives our returns should be much more useful in 1938 than in previous years.

With regard to the Infantile mortality rate the figure given in 1937 is for the whole of Bathurst; of the 370 births 126 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 126 infants 20 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 158·7 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the infantile mortality rate of 254·1 for the whole of Bathurst.

Emigration and immigration.—There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the beginning of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows:—530 in 1934, 518 in 1935, 855 in 1936, and 894 in 1937; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who:—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,
(*b*) is an idiot or insane,
(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,
(*d*) is a prostitute, or
(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount. At the

expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health.

Much work must be done before the Colony can be styled healthy.

Infantile mortality figures remain high and there are far too many cases of preventable disease.

The problem is largely one of proper and efficient sanitation and to this Government continues to pay strict attention.

Steady progress has been made in improving the sanitation of the town of Bathurst.

The system of refuse disposal is now working satisfactorily though far too many still consider that their compound is the most suitable depository for their household refuse. Constant education and supervision should eventually however overcome this.

The latrine system, whilst the best that can be devised at the moment, is not so satisfactory as it might be but any system of water closets, either of the septic tank type or otherwise is impossible till the centre of Bathurst is higher than the outside and the institution of the general use of such must be held over till after the completion of the Reclamation.

A temporary pumping plant has been installed to alleviate the condition of Bathurst in the rains.

As formerly, diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems are the most prevalent in Bathurst with totals for the former 6,760 and for the latter 4,648. 667 cases of Malaria were treated at the Victoria Hospital. The incidence rises rapidly during the month of September and remains high until the end of the year.

The number of patients treated for Trypanosomiasis still increases totalling 2,025 for the year. There has been a marked decrease in the incidence of Yaws—1,642 cases as compared with 4,046 last year.

This year has seen the opening of a Dispensary at Kerewan.

There are in Bathurst a European and African General Hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics, while the service in the Protectorate consists (in addition to the dispensary at Kerewan) of a general hospital at Georgetown, a hospital at Bwiam, and three dispensaries at Basse, Kau-ur, and Kaiaff.

Chapter V. Housing.

Although a competent Building Inspector has been appointed, the solution of the housing problem is dependent on the Reclamation Scheme.

To insist on the rigid enforcement of the law before that would be a waste of the inhabitants' money, but once the Reclamation is made its value will be almost nullified if strict adherence to the Building Regulations is not enforced.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. In many places there is distinct improvement both in type and construction—but in nearly all cases there is inadequate provision for ventilation.

There is little sign of an organised lay-out in the villages and huts are crowded together—a condition of affairs only too suitable for the spread of disease.

An organised attempt is being made to improve sanitary conditions in the villages, particularly in relation to protection of water supplies and hygienic night soil disposal and there are definite signs of improvement in those towns where sanitary inspectors have been stationed.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	40,219	23,887
South Bank Province	73,853	27,718
MacCarthy Island Province ...	42,596	25,105
Upper River Province	45,259	25,426
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	3,177

* Census figures 1931.

Chapter VI. Natural Resources.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

As a result of propaganda, instruction and better prices, the majority of the main markets in the country are now preparing their hides by the improved methods advocated. Skins are now receiving similar attention.

Improvement in the quality of palm kernels and beeswax offered for sale is slow, but it is hoped that continued propaganda and the higher prices offered for better quality produce will meet with success.

Shea butter has been planted experimentally as a minor forest product in all districts by the chiefs, supervised by the Agricultural Department. It cannot yet be said whether this experiment is likely to be successful.

Ploughing with cattle is beginning to interest farmers and a few undertook the work with oxen and men trained by the Agricultural Department.

Irrigation also is receiving more attention from the people, particularly the women, and when the men can be persuaded to undertake the initial work of laying out the farms there is no doubt that they will be readily cultivated by the women at least during the rains. Efforts are being made to interest the people in the cultivation of a crop in the dry season also.

As regards food crops there is a general demand for the improved rices that are being gradually introduced into the rice growing areas by the Agricultural Department, while cassava, sweet potatoes and other garden food crops are receiving more attention.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	Tons (undecorticated.)	Tons (decorticated.)	Value (undecorticated)	Value (decorticated.)	Total Value.
			£	£	£
1933	67,370	—	500,766	—	500,766
1934	71,919	—	387,345	—	387,345
1935	45,110	—	368,887	—	368,887
1936	49,654	—	427,317	—	427,317
1937	66,576	508	646,635	6,954	653,589

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1937 the export of these commodities were :—

			£
Palm Kernels	...	861 tons value	7,558
Hides and Skins	...	109,108 lbs. „	1,855
Beeswax ...	..	35,424 „ „	1,140

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia, although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1935 some 1,667 head of cattle were reported to have died of rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

During April and May of 1933 the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria and the Veterinary Pathologist visited the country to investigate the situation and outline a scheme to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of their visit and as a result of their investigations an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost up to

a maximum of £3,200 are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was begun in November 1933 when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary Officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and MacCarthy Island Provinces.

In November 1935 and November 1936 the Veterinary Pathologist was seconded from Nigeria and continued to inoculate cattle in MacCarthy Island Province and Upper River Province. He again commenced inoculations in November 1937 in the North Bank of MacCarthy Island Province. The programme for this season's inoculations include the Eastern portion of the North Bank Province.

The season 1937–38 will conclude the last inoculating period under the five year scheme. There is no doubt that the value of immunization has been appreciated by the cattle owners and the results of these inoculations are clearly indicated by the notable increase of cattle in immunized herds.

The demands for the inoculations have also considerably increased and with each successive season the control of rinderpest will be facilitated.

There is every prospect that the cattle industry of this country will be restored in the near future to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist in the Colony and there are no important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

The extent of the trade of the Gambia, both internal and external, is dependent on the annual production of groundnuts coupled with considerations of price in the European market for oil seeds.

The colony is dependent to a large extent on imported food supplies (principally rice) and textile goods for wearing apparel, and the ability of the African to pay for these requirements fluctuates with the local groundnut prices from season to season. The year under review witnessed a marked increase in the value of the aggregate trade of the colony which, at £1,404,148, was the highest since 1930. This expansion was the direct result of the excellent prices for groundnuts—up to £9 a ton—obtained by producers in the 1936–1937 season. It must be recorded, however, that the purchasing firms subsequently shipped the nuts at considerable loss to themselves, and that in consequence of the continued depression of the oil seeds market the opening price at the commencement of the 1937–1938 season was only £4 a ton. This low price seriously affected the purchasing power of the community in the last few months with the result that at the close of the year all firms were left with large unsold stocks of merchandise of all descriptions.

In the year under review the value of the groundnuts exported represented over 90 per cent of the total value of the export trade, and cotton piece goods and rice accounted for 24 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, of the total value of the imports.

The maximum price at which rice may be sold by retail in the colony is controlled by Government, and imports of certain classes of textile piece goods of Japanese manufacture are subject to restriction by quota.

2. The total value of the imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the year 1937, as compared with the previous four years was as follows:—

Imports.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	435,902	327,185	483,287	582,267	705,165
Specie, etc. ...	13,966	4,326	30,000	200	96,551
Total ...	449,868	331,511	513,287	582,467	801,716

Domestic Exports:

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Produce and Manufactures ...	506,327	394,272	376,102	435,429	665,000
Bullion ...	—	50	—	—	—
Total ...	506,327	394,322	376,102	435,429	665,000

Re-exports:

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Merchandise ...	8,881	7,577	16,622	9,975	34,148
Specie, etc. ...	—	53,850	103,980	55,834	10,912
Total ...	8,881	61,427	120,602	65,809	45,060

3 (*a*). The percentage of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, for the year 1937, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows :—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	50·34	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76
British Possessions	16·66	22·32	27·31	23·15	28·57
Foreign Countries ...	33·00	35·25	26·37	23·25	25·67
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

(*b*). The principal supplying countries provided the following percentages (exceeding five per cent) :—

Countries:

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	50·34	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76
India	7·66	10·04	11·14	10·73	15·42
Sierra Leone ...	8·19	10·81	13·90	9·97	8·51
France	11·63	9·04	7·27	—	—
Germany	—	5·10	—	6·12	7·95
Japan	6·33	5·03	—	—	—

4 (a). The percentage of the domestic exports, excluding bullion, sent to British and foreign destinations in 1937, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	34·24	10·83	24·17	19·39	32·01
British Possessions ...	0·59	0·60	0·16	0·12	0·18
Foreign Countries ...	65·17	88·57	75·67	80·49	67·81
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

(b). The percentage, exceeding 10 per cent. of the domestic exports, exclusive of bullion, sent to each of the principal countries of destination was as follows:—

Countries.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	34·24	10·83	24·17	19·39	32·01
Belgium	—	—	22·18	20·60	26·39
Denmark	—	—	20·38	24·09	25·04
France	38·62	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	50·94	10·10	11·80	—
Netherlands	15·86	24·80	22·19	23·25	15·99

5 (a). The quantities and values of the principal imports, other than bullion and specie, for the year 1937 as compared with 1936 are as follows:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.
Aircraft parts & accessories ...	—	—	7,190	18,818
Apparel	—	—	9,978	13,445
Cotton piece goods sq. yds	8,783,880	7,082,284	184,327	171,346
Cotton yarn ... lbs	197,419	150,092	15,048	12,729
Cotton manufactures (excluding piece-goods, yarn & apparel) ...	—	—	14,422	22,064
Flour, wheaten cwts.	13,877	16,999	8,962	13,786
Kola nuts ... cwts.	29,492	23,448	43,188	50,563
Metals, (all kinds) ...	—	—	32,333	37,446
Motor vehicles No.	65	96	8,625	11,914
Oils, non-edible (all kinds) galls.	246,781	422,293	10,678	21,101
Rice ... cwts.	149,563	229,402	58,934	101,700
Sugar ... cwts.	19,231	19,076	13,460	13,730
Tobacco, (all kinds) lbs.	180,711	190,930	12,139	15,897

(b). The principal sources of supply of the articles enumerated above were as follows in 1937 and (1936):—

Aircraft parts and accessories: Germany supplied the total imports in both years for the use of the Deutsche Lufthansa South Atlantic air mail service.

Apparel: United Kingdom—£5,813 (£6,111); Hong Kong—£4,020 (£829).

Cotton piece goods: United Kingdom—6,334,709 square yards, £151,115 (8,071,667, £166,609).

Cotton yarn: United Kingdom—100,179 lbs., £8,445 (180,933 lbs., £13,823); Belgium—49,508 lbs., £4,281 (8,710 lbs., £543).

Cotton manufactures (excluding piece-goods, yarn and apparel): United Kingdom—£6,934 (£4,900); Switzerland—£4,258 (£3,504); Germany—£3,703 (£1,967); Belgium—£2,742 (£515); Italy—£2,083 (£916).

Flour, wheaten: United Kingdom—5,239 cwts., £4,872 (4,517 cwts., £3,427); France—7,403 cwts., £4,649 (5,639 cwts., £2,760); Canada—4,158 cwts., £3,824 (3,699 cwts., £2,762).

Kola nuts: Sierra Leone—23,442 cwts., £50,536 (29,482 cwts., £46,155).

Metals all kinds: United Kingdom—£19,623 (£12,044); Germany—£10,732 (£14,763).

Motor Vehicles: Canada—Nos. 57, £8,196 (Nos. 29, £4,221); United Kingdom—Nos. 26, £2,886 (Nos. 20, £3,072).

Oils, non-edible (all kinds): United States of America—261,102 gallons, £11,307 (175,235 gallons, £6,791); British West Indies—86,428 gallons, £4,963 (nil).

Rice: British India (Burma)—227,413 cwts., £160,515 (144,923 cwts., £56,815).

Sugar: United Kingdom—11,557 cwts., £9,123 (11,005 cwts., £7,993); Belgium—5,495 cwts., £3,324 (3,111 cwts., £1,550)

Tobacco, all kinds: United Kingdom—41,852 lbs., £9,576 (31,118 lbs., £6,977); Canada—100,104 lbs., £4,629 (63,834 lbs., £2,633).

Domestic Exports:—

6. The quantities and values of the principal domestic exports and re-exports other than bullion and specie for the year 1937, as compared with 1936 are as follows:—

Commodities	1936. Quantity.	1936. Value.	1937. Quantity.	1937. Value.
Groundnuts ... tons	49,654	427,317	67,084	653,589
Hides & Skins... lbs.	116,306	1,839	109,108	1,855
Palm Kernels... tons	626	4,858	861	7,558
Beeswax ... lbs.	32,573	909	35,424	1,140

Re-exports:—

Articles.	1936. Quantity.	1936. Value.	1937. Quantity.	1937. Value.
Aircraft parts & accessories	—	4,181	—	24,704
Metal Manufactures ...	—	1,588	—	2,576
Motor vehicles & parts ...	—	1,318	—	1,960
Motor spirits ... galls.	26,244	1,082	31,194	1,661
Textile manufactures ...	—	479	—	1,372

7. Imports and exports of coin and currency notes in 1937, as compared with the previous four years, were as follows:—

Imports:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	437	604	—	200	51,551
Currency Notes	13,529	3,722	30,000	—	45,000

Exports:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	—	53,600	100,496	34,000	10,000
Currency Notes	—	150	3,484	21,834	912

Chapter VIII. Labour

The principle labour in the Protectorate is peasant—proprietor farming. Each year a fluctuating number of natives from the neighbouring French territories enters the Colony to engage, on a share-cropping basis, in the production of groundnuts and some of these immigrants obtain alternative work in the wharf towns transporting nuts between stores for the buyers and loading ships. The number of these labourers is small compared with those engaged in agriculture and theirs is the only other form of labour in the Protectorate. There are no mines, plantations, estates or European enterprises of other kinds for which labour is needed.

In Bathurst the only constant employer of labour is the Government and the three departments mainly concerned, the Public Works Department, the Health Department and the Marine Department, employ at their busiest periods less than 1,000 in the aggregate, including skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. These labourers are engaged in road work, water-pipe laying and electrical work, sanitation and shipyard work.

Non-governmental labour is subject to great numerical fluctuation. At the peak of the short trading season, November to April, the number of men employed by the mercantile firms rises as occasion demands, *i.e.*, when ships are being loaded, to as many as 2,000 but that rate of employment is maintained for very short periods. This casual, seasonal labour is all unskilled; it is indeed almost all some form of porterage, and a large number of those engaged in it come from the neighbouring French territory. The supply of such migratory labour varies in accordance with the amount of financial profit to be anticipated from the production of groundnuts. After a good season, when selling prices have been high, the supply of immigrant labour decreases, though never sufficiently to cause anxiety. An increase in the rates of pay is enough to procure the numbers required from more proximate sources. After a year of bad selling prices the supply of migratory workers exceeds the demand. There are no factories or industries in Bathurst.

Chapter IX. Wages and Cost of Living.

The Labour Ordinance of 1933 empowers the Governor-in-Council to regulate rates of wages, and agreements between employers and labour but not to prescribe the weekly hours of labour. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

Wages.—The usual wages paid for artisans such as carpenters, masons, etc., vary from 2s. 6d. to 6s. a day according to the skill of the employee.

Unskilled labour rates vary slightly and might be classified as :—

(a) Monthly employees—30s. to 36s. with generally a rice ration allowance of 45 lbs.

(b) Casual labour on daily wage—1s. to 1s. 3d. a day.

(c) Farm labourers—board and lodging during the planting season and a proportion of the proceeds. Such labour is generally from outside the colony and returns home after the reaping of the crops.

(d) Semi-skilled such as sanitary labourers.—1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day.

(e) Piece work labourers—employed usually on loading or discharging ships, may earn 2s. to 5s. a day.

There are no factories or industries; local activity is principally restricted to producing the staple product of groundnuts which is seasonal, although considerable amount of guinea corn, rice and garden produce is also grown.

The crops are grown by the native population on their own behalf, and there are no permanent plantations. The hired labour is therefore small and is principally confined to the trading firms and the various Government Departments.

Cost of Living.—The native population lives principally on rice and guinea corn but a considerable amount of sugar, fish and salt is also consumed; meat and groundnuts are also used.

The daily cost of a labourer's food in the towns may be reckoned as:—

Rice or corn	...	...	3d.
Bread	...	...	1d.
Fish	...	...	1d.
Oil (generally palm)	...	...	1d.
Sugar	...	...	½d.
Condiments	...	...	½d.
		Total	7d.

If meat and groundnuts are substituted for fish and rice the daily cost is increased by about 1d.

House rent and clothing enter very little in the cost of living, possibly not more than 3s. a month is expended on an average.

The prices of those imported foodstuffs in general use are given below:—

	£	s.	d.
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	1	5	0
Salt „ „ 28 „	0	0	10
Flour „ „ 98 „	1	0	0
Edible Oil (Palm) per 4 gall. tin ...	0	7	9
Sugar per lb.	0	0	3

The prices of the locally produced foodstuffs would be: —

Meat—	£	s.	d.
Fillet per lb.	0	0	9½
Steak „	0	0	7½
Meat with bone per lb. ...	0	0	6
Heart, liver & brain per lb. ...	0	0	5
Kidney each	0	0	4½
Skin, tripe, trimmings & offal per lb.	0	0	5
Mutton per lb.	0	0	6
Kidney (Sheep) each... ...	0	0	2
Fish per lb. approximately ...	0	0	1½
Groundnuts per bushel ...	0	1	0
Corn (Guinea) per bag of 216 lbs.	0	12	0

Cost of living—European Government Officials.—The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst:

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Firewood	9
Electric Light	10
Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc.)	40
Provisions and Wines	125
Tobacco	10
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme contribution	24
Miscellaneous expenditure including equipment	35
Total	£335

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

Chapter X. Education and Welfare Institutions.

At the end of the year a change was made in the administration of the Education Department which has previously been in the charge of an Administrative Officer holding the duty post of Superintendent of Education. In December a Superintendent of Education was transferred from Nigeria to administer the Department which will henceforth be in the charge of a qualified Education Officer. One of his first duties will be to tighten up the existing organization and bring all schools as much as possible into line with the provisions of the Education Ordinance of 1935 which is not yet fully in force. It is recognized that a general reorganization of the present system is desirable and the intention is for the Superintendent of Education, during 1938, to formulate a scheme for the consideration of Government in which special attention will be paid to such questions as secondary education and vocational training.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, where the new Superintendent of Education has his quarters and office. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of chiefs.

The Board of Education, presided over by the Superintendent of Education, consists of one representative from each mission or educational body working in the Colony or Protectorate appointed by the Governor, together with not less than three other members of whom one must be an African, and one a woman. It is the duty of the Board to consider the reports of schools laid before it by the Superintendent of Education and to advise Government thereon : to recommend to the Governor any changes in legislation, and to make any reports which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education.

Elementary and secondary education are provided by the missions with the aid of Government grants, and a committee of leading Mohammedans, assisted by the Superintendent of Education, supervises the Mohammedan School, an elementary school in which the teachers are paid by Government. The Manual Training Centre at the Public Works Department which was maintained by Government had to be closed in the middle of the year because the officer in charge was invalided and there was no one to take his place. The whole question of manual training in schools is under consideration. There is no University education.

These are six elementary schools in Bathurst which in 1937 had a total of 1,796 pupils on the registers (1,212 boys and 584 girls) and an average attendance of 1,053. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst : two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1937 were 74 boys and 124 girls with average attendances of 50 and 101 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government. There is also a secondary class with 5 boys and 1 girl maintained by the Anglican Mission.

The Teacher Training School which was opened in Bathurst in 1930 continued its work and there were 10 students on the register in 1937.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of chiefs, with 50 on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools which would have only a local effect. The Methodist Mission maintains a small day school (assisted) in Georgetown. This was closed temporarily in September owing to staffing difficulties but may re-open in 1938. The Anglican Mission maintains two day schools and the Roman Catholic Mission three day schools (all unassisted) in the Protectorate.

The revised syllabus for Bathurst elementary schools which came into use on the 1st January, 1934, remains the basis for the schools' curricula, but, though the latter have been improved in consequence, there is evidence that a more detailed syllabus with definite recommendations regarding text-books is required.

The following examinations were held during the year: the London Matriculation, the Cambridge Senior, Junior and Preliminary examinations; Clerical Service examinations.

Welfare Institutions, etc.:—Free Medical Treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV, the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreations etc.:—In Bathurst, Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played

by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground is to be constructed in Half Die, Bathurst. Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once a week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public, and during the dry weather in MacCarthy Square. The concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter XI. Communications and Transport.

External.

For mail services the colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd. There is a regular monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government continued the agreement with the Deutsche LuftHansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and Europe. This company operates a service weekly throughout the year.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Frankfurt—Marseilles—Lisbon—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The LuftHansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, a catapult ship, four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and airplanes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only.

The outward mail leaves London on Wednesday evening, Frankfurt on Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrives in Bathurst on Friday at 1 a.m. The trans-Atlantic crossing is effected direct from Bathurst by flying boat, and the mail reaches South America on Friday at 8 p.m.

The homeward mail plane leaves Natal on Friday, arriving in Bathurst on Saturday morning. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which leaves Bathurst on Saturday morning, arrives in Frankfurt on Sunday afternoon and in London on Monday.

Bathurst Harbour.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages off shore vary from nine to fourteen fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. There is

sufficient water at the entrance for vessels of twenty-seven feet draft to enter the harbour.

Government Wharf has been reconstructed, the wooden decking having been replaced by ferro-concrete ; underwater piles have been refitted, and an up-to-date system of rails installed. Two 2½-ton petrol cranes are now in operation. The "T" head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 13 feet close alongside at L.W.O.S.T. There are eleven other wharves which are from 100 to 200 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1½ hours after high and low water by the shore ; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream considerable swirls sometimes occur at springs during and immediately after the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well marked by a light vessel, buoys, and light structures.

Internal.

River Transport.—The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than twelve feet draught, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntaur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draught of nineteen feet. Vessels not exceeding six feet six inches in draught can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

Marine Department.—A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government steamers *Prince of Wales* (400 tons) and *Lady Denham* (250 tons). Two Government lighters *Vampire* (170 tons) and *Mansa Kila Ba* (70 tons) are also available for additional cargoes.

The Steamers call at twenty-eight ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles). They do not normally proceed beyond Basse but should they go to Fattoto (288 miles) thirty-three ports are called at. A weekly service is maintained during the trade season from November to May and a fortnightly or monthly service for the remainder of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows :—

		1935	*1936*	*1937*
Passengers carried	...	10,057	12,751	13,410
Cargo (tons)	...	4,211	6,076	6,334
Revenue from passenger traffic	...	£3,501 13 7.	£3,952 0 0.	£3,858 0 0.
Revenue from freight	...	£3,837 14 7.	£4,069 0 0.	£4,245 0 0.

The refitting of Government steamers and of vessels belonging to firms is carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross—the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries.—Passenger and vehicular ferries, installed by Government in connection with the road system plied at the following points :—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)
Brumen (connecting roads Nos. 1 and 3)
Lamin Koto–MacCarthy Island
Sankulikunda–MacCarthy Island
Bansang, Basse, Fattoto, Kau-ur–Jessadi — continuation of Road No. 2

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1937.

Roads.—There are four trunk roads, which are except for No. 1 unmetalled:—

No. 1. Bathurst – Jeshwang – Abuko – Lamin–Yundum–Brikama – Kafuta – N'Demban – Bwiam – Brumen Ferry ($30\frac{3}{4}$ miles). This road is metalled as far as Brikama.

No. 2. Barra–Berrending (Bantanding)–Basilami–Kerewan Ferry–Saba–Banni–N'Jakunda–Illiassa (62 miles).

No. 3. Illiassa – Katchang – Konkoba – Kwinella–Jataba–Brumen Ferry ($22\frac{1}{2}$ miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French boundary ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on trunk road No. 2) to the French boundary ($\frac{3}{4}$ miles).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa *via* Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the south bank running from Kwinella (on trunk road No. 3.) to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows:—

North Bank Province ...	...	116	miles
South Bank Province ...	...	95	,,
MacCarthy Island Province	...	280	,,
Upper River Province ...	...	200	,,

Postal Services.—Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The Kuntau-ur office is closed during the rainy season (June to October). There is also a postal agency at Kerewan, North Bank Province.

The total number of letters, postcards, papers, etc., dealt with during 1937 was 243,329—an increase of 15,833 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 4,668 as compared with 3,872 in 1936. In addition, 1,389 small postal packets were handled. 14,497 airmail letters were despatched and 10,155 were received during the year.

Money and Postal Order Statistics are as follows:—

	1936	*1937*
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	17,922	24,948
Revenue derived from Money Orders	106	145
Postal Orders issued and paid	7,696	8,834
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	62	71

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1937 was £14,132 as compared with £5,260 in 1936.

Telephone Service.—A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and at Cape St. Mary, the total number of subscribers exclusive of extensions, being 105. The total value of the service was £707, of which amount £480 represented the value of free service to Government Departments.

Wireless Service.—Internal communication is maintained by four wireless stations established at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The station at Bathurst has a range of 500 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the Wireless service in 1937 was £1,077 including £407 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1936 were £1,042 and £362 respectively.

Telegraph Cables.—There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., has a station in Bathurst and cables run to Sierra Leone to the south and St. Vincent to the north.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the Annual Estimates, for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department, for the licensing and control of Petroleum Stores under the Petroleum Ordinance and for the enforcement of the Building Regulations for the Town of Bathurst.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, Technical Office Assistant, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen, and three African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of an Accountant and nine African Clerks.

In addition the Department operates the electric light and power services comprising some 47 miles of distribution mains, the ice making plant, the Albert Market refrigerating plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the fire protection plant and the Government motor transport service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and in the Protectorate the main road from Bathurst which branches to Cape St. Mary and to the Kombo North and Central Districts, and certain other trunk roads are similary maintained.
Activities during 1937:—

(*a*) Maintenance. (Expenditure £15,013.)

Bathurst Water Supply.

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1937 was calculated as 58,800,000 gallons.

The rates charged are as follows:—

General Water Rate ...	1½% on rateable value.
Water supply rate ...	£2 per annum.
Supply rate to vessels	1s. 4d. per 100 gallons.
Meter rate	1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.
Washing out ground nut stores	£2 10 per hour.

Revenue 1937:—

General and Supply rates	£821
Supply to vessels	£297
Meter rate	£ 58
Total	£1,176

Water supplied to the following metered consumers was:—

R.W.A.F.F.	627,834	gallons
Prison	1,155,401	„
Botanical Gardens, Cape St. Mary ...	1,169,071	„
Cooling Plant, Albert Market, Bathurst	407,922	„
Power Station	148,864	„
Marine Department	329,653	„
Ships and private consumers ...	985,923	„
	4,824,663	gallons

Electric Light and Power Services :—The Power Station is situated in the centre of the Town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of five solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators 1 x 220 K.W., 2 x 100 K.W., 1 x 50 K.W., and 1 x 25 K.W. Total 495 K.W.

System A.C. 3 Phase 4 wire 50 periods. Consumers voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Feeder and distributors overhead cable.

Number of private consumers 277 an increase of 29 during the year.

Supply commenced June 1926.

Total units generated 1937, 471,468 B.T.U.

Maximum load recorded 171 K.W.

Total connected load 641 K.W.

Total motors connected 287 B.H.P.

Public lighting 710 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some 13 miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 30 K.V.A. transformer at the north end of the town — the voltage being stepped-up to 3,300 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Cape St. Mary 8 miles away, where it feeds a 15 K.V.A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about 5 miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1937 were as follows:—

(*a*) Units sold			98,046
(*b*) Ice Factory...			6,456
(*c*) Public Services, Street Lighting	187,330		
(*d*) „ „ Government House	22,528		
(*e*) „ „ Hospital, Clinics, etc.	29,242		
(*f*) „ „ Market ...	9,551		
(*g*) „ „ Police Station & Prison ...	7,842		
Carried forward	256,493		104,502

		Brought forward		256,493	104,502
(*h*)	Public Services	Customs Shed & Wharf	...	2,250	
(*i*)	„	„ Half Die Pumping Station	...	2,837	
(*j*)	„	„ Box Bar	...	12,990	
(*k*)	„	„ Post Office, Wireless, Telephones and Wireless Station	...	5,306	
(*l*)	„	„ Public Works Department	...	9,425	
(*m*)	„	„ Marine	...	12,643	
(*n*)	„	„ Printing Office	...	2,596	
(*o*)	„	„ Fire Protection Plant		230	
(*p*)	„	„ Other Government Offices		3,729	308,499
(*q*)	Power Station (auxiliaries)		...		40,969
(*r*)	Lost in distribution		...		17,498
		Total Units generated			471,468

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1937 on maintenance amounted to £3,055.

Ice Factory.—The Public Works Department also operate and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to approximately 24½ tons.

Market Cold Store.—A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 74¾ tons of meat passed through this storage in 1937.

(b) Construction, etc. (Expenditure £37,744)

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

		£
Sanitary works ...	...	2,011
Consolidation of roads	...	1,714
Minor works ...	...	652
Four quarters at Fajara	...	12,373
Pumps Box Bar ...	...	778
Provincial Office, Basse	...	801
Hospital, Bansang	...	17,762
Customs Shed extension	...	942

Colonial Development Schemes.—The extension of the Electric light service (expenditure for the year £905) and the Development of water supply, Bathurst, (£8,719) were carried on during the year and satisfactory progress has been made.

Other Revenue earned by the Department.

	£
Electric Light	11,655
Ice factory	228
Transport	1,212
Petroleum Licence & Magazine Rent ...	415
Miscellaneous	193

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court, the Coroner's Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1905. It is presided over by a Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Bathurst Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court which is a Subordinate Court of the first class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 7), pass the following sentences :—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £200.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a variety of matters is conferred by a number of local Ordinances.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the second class and may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8) pass the following sentences :—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £50.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the first class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners, who are Justices of the Peace. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a Superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England. It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from the Subordinate Courts, the Judge reviews criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate, if necessity arises.

The Supreme Court has the same jurisdiction over matters occuring in the Protectorate as it possesses in respect of matters occuring in the Colony.

The Protectorate Courts are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Provincial Court Ordinance, 1935 and are presided over by a Commissioner, or an Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissiooner they are Subordinate Courts of the first class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q.v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides the Court is a Subordinate Court of the second class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q.v.). Provincial Courts have a civil jurisdiction in all claims up to £100. An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court in a criminal matter.

Native Tribunals were established in each District by the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, constituted by the native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan Law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, succession, the rights of parents and guardianship, when the parties are both Mohammedans, and the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a Native

Tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades with the following jurisdiction:—

Grade A.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by nine months' imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine. Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damages does not exceed £50.

Grade B.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by six months' imprisonment or a fine of £10 or both such imprisonment and fine. Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £25.

The Commissioner of the Province has wide powers of control and revision over the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

Coroner's Court.—A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioners.

Judicial Staff.—There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty-five Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi and approximately two hundred members of Native Tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees.

Crime.—In the Colony 568 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 592 persons in 1936. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 1,247 offences as compared with 996 offences in 1936.

The number of Criminal information filed in the Supreme Court was twenty-three.

Rates.—Under the provisions of the Rates Ordinance 1933, the Bathurst Police Court also dealt with 525 rating cases.

Statistics for the year 1937.

Criminal:—

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	32	19	—	13
Police Court ...	568	70	6	492
Provincial Courts :—				
North Bank Province	80	3	7	70
South Bank Province	28	1	1	26
MacCarthy Is. Province	40	4	—	36
Upper River Province	38	1	8	29
Native Tribunals :—				
North Bank Province	243	—	—	243
South Bank Province	329	5	—	324
MacCarthy Is. Province	349	8	—	341
Upper River Province	240	19	—	221

Civil:—

Supreme Court	....	....	20 Cases
Mohammedan Court	....	....	147 ,,
Court of Requests	....	....	1,032 ,,
Provincial Courts	....	....	151 ,,
Native Tribunals	....	....	568 ,,

Police.

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Superintendent of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Chief Inspector of Police and the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of a Pay Clerk and Quartermaster, an Inspector of Police, four Sub-Inspectors and 122 other ranks including twenty-five Band.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of weights and measures, traffic control, fire fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

Maintenance of Law and Order.

Statistics:—

	1936.	*1937.*
Cases dealt with	404	378
Prosecutions conducted (persons)	301	303
Inquest summonses served	13	19
Convictions obtained (persons)	264	268
Warrants executed	12	11
Summonses and subpœna served	502	3,094

Issue of Licences:—

Motor Vehicle	....	....	441	509
Dog	....	....	38	70
Firearms	....	....	154*	154*
Domestic Servant	....	....	353	427
Motor Driver	....	....	512	592
Liquor	....	....	11	35
Entertainment	....	....	15	15

*Bathurst only

Traffic Control.—Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Bureau.—The Bureau, which was organised in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and measures are dealt with in Chapter XV.

Relations with the Public.—Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.—Being an armed Force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instructions :—

Law and general police duties.
Observation training.
Traffic control.
Physical training.
Infantry drill.
Musketry.
Fire drill.

Health.—The health of the Force during 1937 was satisfactory.

Band.—The public concerts given weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Prison.

In the Gambia the main Prison is situated at Bathurst, but there are native prisons at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island Province and Kerewan, North Bank Province. The buildings of the Prison at Bathurst which were formerly used as an isolation hospital were converted into a prison in 1920. They are constructed of crinting and plaster, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and a pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three association wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out-houses. The warders are accommodated close to the prison.

Staff.—The staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Superintendent of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Superintendent of Police), an African Chief Warder and twenty-three other African warders.

Health.—The prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1937 was good, the daily average number of sick being ·35 per cent of the average daily number in the prison.

Visiting Committee.—The prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Assistant Receiver General and an African Member of the Legislative Council. In

addition, all Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.—On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.—Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of prisoners.—In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking, etc., the prisoners are employed regularly at Government House and on minor public works under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1937, 10,950 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.—The discipline during 1937 was good, twenty-three offences being recorded. Three prisoners escaped who were all recaptured.

	1936.	*1937.*
Admissions (Bathurst)	222	163
Discharges	210	137
Average daily number of prisoners	64·7	58·9

Chapter XIV. Legislation.

During 1937 sixteen Ordinances were enacted. The only ones which call for any comment are:—

The Regulation of Docks Ordinance—empowering the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for the safety of persons employed in loading, unloading, moving and handling goods or produce in on or at any wharf or quay and in loading, unloading and coaling any ship in any dock or harbour.

The Criminal Code (Amendment) Ordinance—making a number of amendments to the Criminal Code including provisions relating to seditious conspiracy, perjury, forgery and counterfeit coin, and the criminal responsibility of persons committing offences when under the influence of drink or drugs.

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance—making many amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code and providing among other matters for the taking of evidence on commission, and for the trial of juvenile offenders and conferring an extended criminal jurisdiction on Subordinate Courts of the First and Second Classes.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance—enabling the Governor to exempt persons from jury service.

Chapter XV. Banking, Currency, Weights & Measures.

Banks.—The only Bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Savings Bank, administered by the Post Office, the rate of interest being 2½ per cent per annum. At the 31st of December, 1937, the deposits amounted to £5,429 in respect of 1,281 depositors.

Currency.—The Currency is British West African alloy and nickel coins of denominations 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d., 1d., and ½d.; and British West African currency notes of 20s., and 10s., denominations.

Stocks of currency are held on behalf of the West African currency board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required against payment in London.

The value of the notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1937, was £264,700 as compared with £239,600 on the 31st December, 1936, whilst alloy coins to the value of £380,214 were in circulation at the end of 1937 as against £358,100 at the end of the previous year.

From the 30th of January until the 15th of June, Bank of England notes were made legal tender by Ordinances Nos. 3 and 5 of 1937. This was a measure designed to combat the temporary shortage of currency experienced by all the British West African colonies.

Weights and Measures.—Standard weights and measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial measures of capacity, length and surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance of 1902 and are kept by the Government. The Superintendent of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XVI. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years were:

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1928	£255,385	£250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015
1933	231,787	180,161
1934	221,564	174,663
1935	245,485	194,669
1936	257,180	209,000
1937	285,204	243,323

Development Loan.—On the 1st February, 1933, the Crown Agents for the Colonies arranged a loan for the purpose of meeting part of the cost of development works undertaken in the Colony viz:—improvement of roads, water supply and wharf.

The amount of stock issued was £38,759 13s. 9d. at £97 per cent bearing 3½ per cent interest per annum. The loan is redeemable in 30 years and a sinking fund contribution is made at the rate of 1·9 per cent per annum. At the close of the year the sinking fund stood at £3,874.

Government Funds.

(*a*) Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1937	£164,770
(*b*) Reserve	227,390
(*c*) Steamer Depreciation Reserve	18,610
	£410,770

Taxation.—The main sources of Revenue from taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows:—

Customs Import Duties.	*1933.* £	*1934.* £	*1935.* £	*1936.* £	*1937.* £
Ad valorem	18,480	8,392	10,519	10,227	14,559
Specific:—					
Kola Nuts	33,528	38,559	54,689	55,059	43,743
Kerosene & Petroleum	4,789	6,151	7,872	5,808	9,894
Spirits	2,461	3,430	3,906	3,369	4,425
Tobacco	14,705	8,974	17,150	14,764	16,124

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ...	—	2,695	4,355	4,796	4,695
Cottons ...	—	14,273	22,395	34,549	28,503
Wines ...	2,194	1,353	2,438	2,060	2,995
Other articles	36,979	12,515	14,028	13,371	17,276
Rice ...	9,893	9,120	13,774	16,212	25,399
Parcel Post	524	492	530	427	563
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-nuts	33,609	35,666	22,358	24,594	33,361
Total Customs Duties.	£157,161	£141,620	£174,014	£185,236	£201,512
Port Dues	2,773	2,768	3,023	3,625	4,075
Protectorate Taxes	14,187	13,638	11,365	13,332	11,918
Trade Licences	3,111	3,195	3,347	3,865	4,369
Other Licences, Liquor, Motor Car etc.	1,883	2,126	2,627	2,231	3,014
Town Rates	2,057	2,242	1,978	1,523	2,080
TOTAL	£181,172	£165,589	£196,354	£209,812	£226,938

Excise and Stamp duties.—There are no excise duties. The revenue collected in 1937 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £185.

Yard Tax.—Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed:—

	s.	d.
(*a*) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses	5	0
(*b*) For every additional Hut or House in the yard	1	6
(*c*) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier	2	0
(*d*) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land	8	0

Chapter XVII. Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are performed in regard to lands held under lease from Government, the revision and preparation of plans, and valuation of properties prepared. The Rates Assessment Committee, with the Land Officer as Chairman, held numerous sittings at the Land Office to assess the rates for the Town of Bathurst, and the Rating List was prepared by the Clerk to the Committee, who is also Chief Clerk in the Land Office, assisted by other members of the Staff.

Grants and Leases of public lands in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 14 years with certain exceptions.

Plots at the various trading centres in the Protectorate or "Wharf Towns" as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the Town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10s. per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2 10s. per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands and wharf licences in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £6,840 for the year 1937 whilst £106 was received in respect of survey fees. In 1936 the rents and rates amounted to £5,881 and the fees for surveys to £87. Expenditure was £1,872 in 1937 as compared with £1,885 in 1936.

Activities During 1937.

Surveys.—Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

Numerous surveys were carried out in Bathurst and the Protectorate.

A new survey of the Fajara building estate was commenced the first seven plots set out, and four new bungalows together with boys' and out houses were placed on the map. All new roads were also surveyed.

The following surveys of wharf towns were revised:—

Bansang, Kau-ur, Basse, Kuntau-ur, Karantaba and Kudang.

The towns of Tintiba and Balingho were re-surveyed.

Plans.—104 plans were prepared in connection with lands and wharves granted or licensed and endorsed on deeds.

Twenty-three tracings of plots and wharves surveyed, made. Maps of Georgetown, Basse and the Fajara Estate re-drawn. Numerous plans, tracings and sun-prints supplied to other departments and British Airways survey party.

Grants and Leases.—Thirty-five leases and wharf licences were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.—The Rating List for 1937 was completed early in the year and that for 1938 was prepared for public inspection.

Miscellaneous.—The Land and Survey Department supplied the Public Works Department throughout the year with the correct local time for regulating the clocks.

Valuations of properties in Bathurst were made for the Curator of Intestate Estates.

Acquisition.—Certain properties were valued and acquired for sites in connection with the sanitation of the town of Bathurst.

Aerodromes.—Certain sites which were thought to be possible as aerodromes in the Kombo were temporarily delineated and flagged for the guidance and easier reference on the ground in connection with the Air Ministry and British Airways survey party which visited Bathurst in December.

Chapter XVIII. Miscellaneous.

The outstanding event of the year was the celebration of the Coronation of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. A service was held in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral on the 12th of May after which His Excellency the Governor, and members of Legislative Council, moved the approval of the telegram of Loyal Greetings to His Majesty. A procession round the town of Bathurst then took place and His Excellency, His Honour the Judge and the Members of Legislative Council were able to see the gay and elaborate decorations with which the local inhabitants had decked the whole town. A military parade was held in the afternoon, a firework display was given in the evening and the day was concluded with a reception for all officials and leading citizens at Government House. Government house and its grounds were floodlit and there were many electrical illuminations all over the town.

On the morning of May 13th a parade of school children was held and, after an address by His Excellency, bronze commemorative medallions and sweetmeats were distributed. Sports took place in the afternoon and a torchlight procession in the evening. Special prayers were said in the Mosque and a distribution of food to the poor was made on the 14th of May.

All these arrangements were made by a special Coronation Committee whose members included representatives of every phase of European and African corporate life.

A permanent drinking fountain to commemorate the Coronation was erected by public subscription.

At each administrative centre in the Protectorate speeches, sports and feasts were held under the auspices of the respective commissioners and the inhabitants of the whole of the Gambia were able to make a spontaneous demonstration of loyalty such as will be forgotten by none who were privileged to witness it.

H. M. S. *Carlisle* visited Bathurst for one night on the 15th of April, H. M. S. *Penzance* visited Bathurst for seven days in July, H. M. S. *Milford* for five days in September and H. M. S. *Neptune* for four days in October.

In December a party, consisting of officials of the Air Ministry and members of the staff of Messrs. British Airways Limited, visited Bathurst to investigate the local conditions so far as they might concern the inauguration of an air service.

Appendix I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

Name.	Address in the Gambia.	Address of Head Office outside the Gambia.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street Bathurst.	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4, England.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	Represented by Office Cooperatif de l'Afrique Francaise, 22 Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	18, Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	Represented by Maurel Frères Société à responsibilité Limitee, 6, Quai Louis XVIII Bordeaux, France.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	29, Boulevarde Pinet Laprade, Dakar, F.W.A.
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street Bathurst.	Campbell Bros, Carter & Co., Ltd. 37–41 Gracechurch St: London, E.C. 3, England.
M. K. Bahsali, Ltd.	do.	J. Bahsali, 82, Princess Street, Manchester, England.

Appendix II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR OF PUBLICATION.	AGENT.	PRICE. £	s.	d.
The Gambia Colony and Protectorate: An Official Handbook.	Francis Bisset Archer	1906	St. Bride's Press, Ltd., London.	0	10	6
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve, C.M.G., M.I.C.E., F.R.G.S., F.A.S.	1912	Messrs. Smith Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London.	0	6	0
Report on the Agricultural Conditions and Needs of the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1921	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
List of Plants collected in the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1922	do.	0	1	0
Vocabulary of the Mandingo Language together with an Addenda.	Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.B. (Oxon).	1924	do.	0	10	0
Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P. (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies), on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.	—	1926	Receiver General, Bathurst, and Crown Agents for the Colonies, London, Eng.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper B. Sc. (Eng.)	1927	do.	0	3	0
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa.	Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	1931	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
A Short History of the Gambia.	W. T. Hamlyn	1931	do.	0	2	0
A Short Phrase Book and Classified Vocabulary of the Mandinka Language.	G. N. N. Nunn, B.A. (Cantab.)	1934	do.	0	1	6
A Short Study of the Western Mandinka Language.	W. T. Hamlyn	1935	do.	0	5	0
Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	Receiver General and Crown Agents.	0	2	0
Blue Book of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Report of the Agricultural Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Report of the Education Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Report of the Medical Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	5	0
The Gambia (for use in Schools).	—	1937	Receiver General Bathurst.	0	0	4

GAMBIA WEST AFRICA

Scale: 1:1,000,000

SENEGAL

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Cape St Mary

Bathurst

Barra

Georgetown

Fort Jonnet

Basse

Fatoto

Kau-ur

Kuntaur

Karantaba

Koina

Casamance River

17° 16° 15° 14° 13°

REFERENCE

DISTRICTS

1 Kombo St. Mary
2 North Kombo
3 South "
4 Central "
5 East "
6 Foni Brefet
7 Bintang Karani
8 Foni Kansala
9 " Bondali
10 " Jarrol
11 Kiang West
12 Central Kiang
13 Eastern "
14 Western Jarra
15 Central "
16 Eastern "
17 Dunkunku Niamina
18 Western "
19 Eastern Niamina
20 Fulladu West
21 " East
22 Kantora
23 Wuli
24 Sandu
25 Sami
26 Niani
27 Nianija
28 Upper Saloum
29 Lower "
30 Upper Baddibu
31 Central "
32 Lower "
33 Jokadu or Joka
34 Upper Niumi
35 Lower "
36 MacCarthy Island

International Boundary
Provincial "
District "

FERRIES

A Brumen Ferry
B Kerewan "
C Kau-ur "
D Lamin-Kote "
E Sankuli Kunda Ferry
F Bansang Ferry
G Basse "
H Fatoto "

TRUNK ROADS

Bathurst – Brumen Ferry
Barra – Illiassa
Illiassa – Brumen Ferry
Bantanding – French Stny

PROVINCIAL HEAD QUARTERS

Cape St Mary
Kerewan
Georgetown
Basse

Survey Dept. Gambia

(4014) 14-52A, 550, 9'38, 9216 & R.E.P.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO THE COLONIAL DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
A Summary of Legislation as at the end of December, 1936
[Colonial No. 141] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND SYSTEM OF TAXATION OF KENYA
Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into and report on
[Colonial No. 116] 9s. (9s. 6d.)

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into and report on
[Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA
Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Colonial N 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NUTRITION POLICY IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE
Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 18th April, 1936
[Colonial No. 121] 2d. (2½d.)

MUI TSAI IN HONG KONG AND MALAYA
Report of Commission [Colonial No. 125] 5s. (5s. 4d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS
Report of Committee [Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE
Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730] 9d. (10d.)

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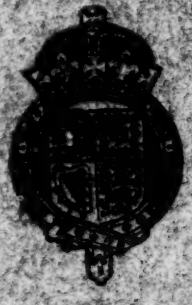

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GAMBIA, 1938.

Chapter I. History, Geography and Climate.

History.

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, " they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the fact that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (*sc.* Portuguese " igreja ") near Kansala in Foni, and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuku near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Phillip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia.

They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals". In 1612 another attempt by the French to settle in the Gambia ended disastrously owing to sickness and mortality.

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Neriko. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who seized some Portuguese shipping as a reprisal for the massacre at Gassan. Jobson also made his way up to Neriko and subsequently gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia in his "Golden Trade". But both his and the previous expedition had resulted in considerable losses and a subsequent voyage, which he made in 1624, proved a complete failure. In the circumstances the patentees made no further attempt to exploit the resources of the Gambia, but confined their attention to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barakunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll: In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three Royalists ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native Chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Half Die), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Banyon Point. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner by the Swedes during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the

Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the reputed existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18th, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17th, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possesisons and in retu n was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1677 the Royal Adventurers sublet their rights between Capes Blanco and Palmas to another body of adventurers, who came to be known as the Gambia Adventurers. These latter Adventurers enjoyed those rights until 1678, when on the expiration of their lease they reverted to the Royal African Company, which had purchased the rights and property of the Royal Adventurers six years previously.

In 1677 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1681 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1857.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1704 and 1708, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1719 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort. An even more serious disaster occurred in 1721, when part of the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Captain John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's Ships, themselves turned pirate. Finally in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's " Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa ". Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be " in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequence of which was that they were obliged to call in their out-factors on the continent.....By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort " was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government head-

quarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by a handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1780 the French privateer "Sénégal" captured four vessels, which had been sent with part of the British garrison at Goree under the command of Major Houghton to the Bintang Creek to obtain building material. The "Sénégal" was in its turn attacked by H.M.S. "Zephyr" and captured after a very warm action off Barra Point. The prizes had in the meantime been destroyed, but the troops, who had taken refuge on shore and had been befriended by the Jolas of Foni, were rescued by the "Zephyr".

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company, which, however, made no attempt to administer the Gambia.

In 1785 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was acquired by the British Government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1790), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1794 on the representations of the African Association, James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

In 1807 the African slave trade was abolished by Act of Parliament. At that date the British were in possession of Goree. With the co-operation of the Royal Navy the garrison of that fort

made strenuous efforts to suppress the traffic in the River Gambia, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels. On more than one occasion the slavers offered a stubborn resistance and the Royal African Corps suffered severe casualties.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that Goree should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the traffic in slaves the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On April 23rd, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government . The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. In 1840 and 1853 considerable areas of the mainland adjoining St. Mary's Island were obtained from the King of Kombo for the settlement of discharged soldiers of the West India Regiments and liberated Africans. Cessions of other tracts of land further upstream were obtained at various dates. In 1857 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British Governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England and the native inhabitants of the Gambia that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British Governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance.

In the meantime, despite a number of petty wars, the Gambian Government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fuladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to, but merely placed under the protection of the British Government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the Colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only sixty-nine square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory for the most part ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly 300 miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst —the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos, Fulas, and Jolas. Nearly all of these are Mohammedans, except the last named tribe who are pagan; the Mohammedan religion is, however, gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 49,008. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dunkunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 47,508. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 60,828. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts, while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 33,665. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinko districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy, though, with better sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1938.

Cape St. Mary Station.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches).
January	74·2	30	—
February	72·9	52	—
March	76·1	63	—
April	74·0	63	—
May	77·5	57	0·14
June	79·7	67	0·02
July	79·1	72	7·54
August	79·5	75	17·54
September	79·8	80	12·39
October	80·3	74	7·27
November	79·7	71	0·24
December	74·7	60	—
		Total ...	45·14

Other Records of Rainfall were:—

Bathurst ... ... 46·93 inches

Yoroberi-kunda, MacCarthy Island Province 34·47 „

Wuli, Upper River Province ... ... 47·71 „

Chapter II. Government.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated), Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo, which, the Island of St. Mary excepted, are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and three other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), five official Members, including the members of the Executive Council, and also four Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an "Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected "Territories of certain powers and jurisdiction by Native "Authorities and by Commissioners", (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that "All native laws and customs in force in the "Protected Territories, which are not repugnant to natural "justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance of the Colony "which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have the same "effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance". The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms:—

"31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—

(*a*) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description.

(*b*) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate;

(*c*) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner's Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder,

robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences."

The protection of persons executing Chiefs' orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads " Every " person employed by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into " effect any order lawfully made, shall have the like protection " for that purpose as a person authorised to execute Process of the " Supreme Court."

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headman) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than did the Protectorate Ordinance, 1913, the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules which governed these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance, 1913, which was re-enacted in consolidated form in April, 1935, on account of the many amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali), the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is

chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the " King of Bathurst ", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or most commands the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of Seyfolu. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner. The former system of advances of seed ground-nuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a rule under which every cultivator of ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seed-nuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Increased supplies of home-grown food-stuffs are now being produced and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

Local Government.—In 1935, the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health, formed in 1931 for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst, gave place to the Bathurst Advisory Town Council.

The constitution of the new Council is the same as that of the old, and is made up of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

Meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the Members of these Councils both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.

Chapter III. Population

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows:—

Mandinko	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Rate Birth per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered.)
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265
1935 ...	386	2·7	452	3·18	310·8
1936 ...	357	2·5	431	3·05	369
1937 ...	370	2·63	414	2·92	254·1
1938* ...	429	3·02	363	2·56	184·1

*1938 figures based on estimated population of 14,163.

As regards the above figures it should be noted that the death rate in Bathurst is raised very considerably by the fact that the chief hospital of the Colony is situated there, that people come from all over the Colony for treatment, and that many of them are in a moribund condition when they reach Bathurst.

Registration of births is more accurate than previously as all midwives are now registered.

172 live births took place in the Clinic as compared with 126 in 1937.

Of the children who attended the Clinic in 1938 only sixteen died within twelve months of their births. This can be regarded as satisfactory even when the general Infantile Mortality rate is so much smaller than ever before.

Emigration and immigration.—There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the beginning of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These " strange farmers " return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of " strange farmers ", labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows:—518 in 1935, 855 in 1936, 894 in 1937 and 878 in 1938: but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who:—

(*a*) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,
(*b*) is an idiot or insane,
(*c*) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,
(*d*) is a prostitute, or
(*e*) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount. At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

Chapter IV. Health.

The Colony cannot be considered healthy as a whole though there is an undoubted improvement in Bathurst and many of the Wharf Towns; a scheme, however, has been prepared for the betterment of sanitation throughout the Colony mainly through propaganda and by an increase in the number of trained Sanitarians available for work in the Protectorate. The scheme which will take many years to complete, will be put into operation in 1940. The training of the necessary personnel has already started.

The pumping plant installed in the Box Bar area of Bathurst proved to be most successful during the rainy season.

A type of permanent septic tank latrine suitable for use in rural districts has been evolved and is slowly replacing the old type of temporary septic tank constructed of oil drums. The new latrines have been installed in Basse, Upper River Province after preliminary experiments in Bathurst, and they are proving to be successful.

Markets in the Protectorate have generally been very unsatisfactory from the health view-point; a start was made during the year to remedy the situation and lay-outs for both permanent and temporary markets were prepared. Much work, however, remains to be done. The question is correlated with the improvement of sanitation as a whole, and will be largely dependent on the scheme of sanitary supervision and propaganda which has now been formulated.

The chief diseases treated during the year were trypanosomiasis, malaria and pneumonia. 1,631 cases of trypanosomiasis were recorded and 843 cases of malaria, which was more prevalent during early December than at any other time of the year. It is satisfactory to record that only 33 per cent of the cases of pneumonia which were treated in Bathurst were fatal.

During the year a new and thoroughly equipped hospital was opened at Bansang and the hospital at Georgetown was converted for use as a Prison. A dispensary, however, is still maintained at Georgetown.

The medical institutions in the Colony now consist of three hospitals, at Bathurst, Bansang and Bwiam, six dispensaries at Basse, Georgetown, Kau-ur, Kerewan, Kaiaff and Cape St. Mary, one lying-in home and Infant Welfare Clinic in Bathurst, and Infant Welfare Clinics and Ante-Natal Centres in Bathurst, Sukuta, and Cape St. Mary, the last two being visited weekly by the Sister-in-Charge of the Clinics.

There are, in addition, two Leper Settlements at Fukinaf and Buruku, and an Infectious Diseases Hospital and a Home for the Infirm in Bathurst.

A successful health week, which included a Baby Day, was held in Bathurst during the year.

Chapter V. Housing.

Housing in Bathurst.

The Technical Office Assistant, Public Works Department, appointed in 1937 also functions as Building Inspector for the town of Bathurst.

The solution of the housing problem is dependent on the Reclamation Scheme. To insist on too rigid an enforcement of the law before that would be a waste of the inhabitants' money, but once the level of the ground has been raised the value to health will be almost nullified if strict adherence to the Building Regulations is not enforced.

The majority of native houses in the town are of bamboo matting (krinting) covered with lime plaster constructed on a framework of rhun palm posts and with a corrugated iron roof.

Housing in the Protectorate.

Improvement in the housing in native villages awaits the development of the scheme for rural sanitation. Plans have been drawn up for model villages in the Kombo, South Bank Province to house any villagers who may be dispossessed as a result of the development in air services and the construction of an adequate aerodrome at Jeshwang. It is hoped that such model villages will form an example to the natives in the rest of the Protectorate. The construction of the houses will follow native practice in the use of mud, wattle or thatch as material but will be controlled as to size, ventilation and general lay-out.

Statistics.

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province	33,665	23,300
South Bank Province	60,828	28,552
MacCarthy Island Province ...	47,508	24,716
Upper River Province	49,008	23,552
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	3,177

* Census figures 1931.

Chapter VI. Natural Resources.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as " shifting cultivation ".

As a result of propaganda, instruction and better prices, the majority of the main markets in the country are now preparing their hides by the improved methods advocated. Skins are now receiving similar attention.

Improvement in the quality of palm kernels and beeswax offered for sale is slow, but it is hoped that continued propaganda and the higher prices offered for better quality produce will meet with success.

Shea butter has been planted experimentally as a minor forest product in all districts by the chiefs, supervised by the Agricultural Department. Several of the areas have received reasonable attention by the people but as may be expected, this tree, which naturally grows slowly in its earlier years, has not created any real interest as yet.

Ploughing with cattle is beginning to interest farmers and a few undertook the work with oxen and men trained by the Agricultural Department. It is pleasing to note that without any pressure on the part of the Agricultural Department or other officials some of the farmers are becoming keener to develop their farms by cattle cultivation. This is a result of the production during the past rainy season of groundnuts and foodcrops by means of ploughing.

Irrigation also is receiving more attention from the people, particularly the women, and when the men can be persuaded to undertake the initial work of laying out the farms there is no doubt that they will be readily cultivated by the women at least during the rains. Efforts are being made to interest the people in the cultivation of a crop in the dry season also.

Remarkable strides have been made during the year in food production and though the ideal of being fully self-supporting in this respect may not have been yet achieved, a big advance in this direction has been made which is due partly to propaganda on the part of all officials of Government in contact with the people and partly to the poor export produce values which have obtained during the year.

The groundnut crop exported during 1938 showed a vast improvement in quality to previous years. Intensive propaganda to plant early, harvest later and pay proper attention to after treatment of the crop has brought about this improvement. Attention was given in this respect to the crop grown during 1938 and

there is every reason to believe that it will be as good if not better than the previous crop. Unfortunately these improvements have coincided with a falling market price.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Tons (undecorticated.)	Tons (decorticated.)	Value (undecorticated)	Value (decorticated.	Total Value.
			£	£	£
1934	71,919	—	387,345	—	387,345
1935	45,110	—	368,887	—	368,887
1936	49,654	—	427,317	—	427,317
1937	66,576	508	646,635	6,954	653,589
1938	46,204	777	240,872	5,819	246,691

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1938 the exports of this commodities were:—

		£
Palm kernels	681 tons value	1,698
Skins	824 cwt. value	1,845
Hides	12,973 lb. value	4,535
Beeswax	49,331 lb. value	262

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia, although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro accross the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1935 some 1,667 head of cattle were reported to have died of rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than

a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usualy given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

From February to May 1933 the Veterinary Pathologist investigated the situation. He was joined in April by the Chief Veterinary Officer, Nigeria and a scheme was outlined to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of this visit and as a result of their investigations, an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost up to a maximum of £3,200 are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was begun in November, 1933, when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and the MacCarthy Island Provinces.

In November, 1935 and November, 1936, the Veterinary Pathologist was seconded from Nigeria and continued to inoculate cattle in MacCarthy Island Province and Upper River Province. He again commenced inoculations in November, 1937, in the North Bank of MacCarthy Island Province and the season closed with the inoculation of cattle in the Western portion of the North Bank Province.

The season 1937-38 will conclude the last inoculating period under the five-year scheme. It has been decided that the scheme should be continued for two more seasons in 1938-39 and 1939-40 and that the position should be then reconsidered. The inoculations in the year 1938-39 will be confined to the South Bank Province where the largest number of cattle in the country are concentrated. There is no doubt that the value of immunization has been appreciated by the cattle owners and the results of these inoculations are clearly indicated by the notable increase in immunized herds.

The demands for the inoculations have also considerably increased and with each successive season the control of rinderpest will be facilitated.

There is every prospect that the cattle industry of this country will be restored in the near future to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist in the Colony and there are no important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

Chapter VII. Commerce.

The extent of the trade of the Gambia, both internal and external, is dependent on the annual production of groundnuts coupled with considerations of price in the European market for oil seeds.

The Colony is largely dependent on imported food supplies (principally rice) and textile goods for wearing apparel, and the ability of the African to pay for these requirements fluctuates with the local groundnut prices from season to season. Commercially the year under review was one of the poorest in the history of the Colony and the aggregate trade at £566,391 was the smallest since 1902; the large carry-over of general merchandise at the end of 1937 and the general shortage of money caused by the low price of groundnuts in the 1937-38 trade season were the factors chiefly responsible.

As compared with 1937 the value of the imports (exclusive of specie) declined by 61 per cent to £277,440 and the value of the exports and re-exports (excluding specie) by 59 per cent to £288,951. The decline in the value of the import trade was due to reduced imports of goods of almost every description, in particular cotton piece goods (– £147,885), rice (– £88,222) and kola nuts (– £28,575), and the smaller tonnage and lower value of the groundnut crop—46,981 tons at £246,691 as against 67,084 tons at £653,589 in 1937—were responsible for the decline in the value of the export trade.

On the 1st of April, 1928, c.i.f. valuation of goods was adopted as the basis of assessment of *ad valorem* duty and all *ad valorem* duties were simultaneously reduced by approximately 10 per cent in order to compensate for the resultant increased value of goods for duty purposes.

As a result of the recent Anglo-American Trade Agreement certain reductions of the general rate of duty were made in respect of motor cars, canned fish, flour, grease, lubricating oil and certain classes of timber as from the 6th of December, 1938.

The maximum price at which rice may be sold by retail in the Colony is controlled by Government, and imports of certain classes of textile piece-goods of Japanese manufacture are subject to restriction by quota.

2. *Air Services.*—299 aircraft were entered and cleared in 1938 as compared with 270 in the previous year.

3. *Shipping.*—429 vessels of a total net tonnage of 1,135,524 were entered and cleared in 1938 as compared with 554 vessels, 1,306,884 tons in 1937. British vessels accounted for 70.81 per cent of the total tonnage entered and cleared This was an increase of 3.53 per cent on the British tonnage in 1937.

The tonnage of the cargo landed during the year was 11,624 as against 33,139 in 1937, and the export tonnage (principal domestic produce) was 47,731 as compared with 67,965 in 1937.

4. The total value of the imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the year 1938, as compared with the previous four years was as follows:—

Imports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	327,185	483,287	582,267	705,165	277,440
Specie, etc. ...	4,326	30,000	200	96,551	128,350
Total ...	331,511	513,287	582,467	801,716	405,790

Domestic Exports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Produce and Manufactures ...	394,272	376,102	435,429	665,000	255,701
Bullion ...	50	—	—	—	—
Total ...	394,322	376,102	435,429	665,000	255,701

Re-exports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	7,577	16,622	9,975	34,148	33,250
Specie, etc. ...	53,850	103,980	55,834	10,912	46,900
Total ...	61,427	120,602	65,809	45,060	80,150

5. (*a*) The percentage of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, for the year 1938, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows:—

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76	45·77
British Possessions	22·32	27·31	23·15	28·57	19·39
Foreign Countries ...	35·25	26·37	23·25	25·67	34·84
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

(*b*) The principal supplying countries provided the following percentages (exceeding five per cent):—

Countries.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76	45·77
India	10·04	11·14	10·73	15·42	—
Sierra Leone ...	10·81	13·90	9·97	8·51	10·36
France	9·04	7·27	—	—	5·43
Germany	5·10	—	6·12	7·95	12·33
Japan	5·03	—	—	—	—

6. (*a*) The percentage of the domestic exports, excluding bullion, sent to British and foreign destinations in 1938, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows:—

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	10·83	24·17	19·39	32·01	26·38
British Possessions ...	0·60	0·16	0·12	0·18	1·65
Foreign Countries ...	88·57	75·67	80·49	67·81	71·97
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

(*b*) The percentage, exceeding 10 per cent, of the domestic exports, exclusive of bullion, sent to each of the principal countries of destination was as follows:—

Countries.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	10·83	24·17	19·39	32·01	26·38
Belgium	—	22·18	20·60	26·39	24·03
Denmark	—	20·38	24·09	25·04	18·76
France	—	—	—	—	10·83
Germany	50·94	10·10	11·80	—	—
Netherlands	24·80	22·19	23·25	15·99	17·13

7. (*a*) The quantities and values of the principal imports, other than bullion and specie, for the year 1938 as compared with 1937 are as follows:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.
			£	£
Aircraft parts & accessories ...	—	—	18,818	26,016
Apparel	—	—	13,445	9,629
Cotton piece goods sq. yds	7,082,284	1,008,545	171,346	23,461
Cotton yarn ... lbs	150,092	23,224	12,729	1,608
Cotton manufactures (excluding piece-goods, yarn & apparel) ...	—	—	22,064	5,208
Flour, wheaten cwts.	16,999	7,827	13,786	5,254
Kola nuts (centals of 100 lb).	23,448	13,002	50,563	21,988
Metals, (all kinds) ...	—	—	37,446	22,125
Motor vehicles No.	96	33	11,914	4,210
Oils, non-edible galls.	422,293	263,790	21,101	13,064
Rice ... cwts.	229,402	30,445	101,700	13,478
Sugar ... cwts.	19,076	10,553	13,730	8,977
Tobacco, (all kinds) lbs.	190,930	117,831	15,806	10,187

(*b*) The principal sources of supply of the articles enumerated above were as follows in 1938 and (1937):—

Aircraft parts and accessories: Germany supplied the total imports in both years for the use of the Deutsche Lufthansa, South Atlantic air mail service.

Apparel: United Kingdom—£3,583 (£5,813); Hong Kong —£776 (£4,020); Czechoslovakia—£1,851 (£2,539).

Cotton piece goods: United Kingdom—646,230 square yards, £14,714 (6,334,709, £151,115); Hungary—92,056 square yards £1,933 (108,613, £2,218).

Cotton yarn: United Kingdom—15,305 lb., £1,138 (100,479 lb. £8,445); Belgium—nil (49,508 lb., £4,281); France—7,919 lb., £470 (105 lb., £3).

Cotton manufacturers (excluding piece-goods, yarn and apparel): United Kingdom—£1,804 (£6,934); Italy—£1,780 (£2,083).

Flour, wheaten: United Kingdom—3,367 cwts., £2,474 (5,239 cwts., £4,872); France—2,212 cwts., £1,066 (7,043 cwts., £4,649); Canada—1,782 cwts., £1,414 (4,158 cwts., £3,824).

Kola nuts: Sierra Leone—12,985 centals of 100 lb., £21,945 (26,255 centals of 100 lb., £50,536).

Metals, all kinds: United Kingdom—£18,171 (£19,623); Germany—£1,305 (£10,732).

Motor vehicles: United Kingdom—No. 17, £2,230 (No. 26, £2,886); Canada—No. 6, £978 (No. 57, £8,196).

Oils, non-edible: United States of America—124,086 gallons, £6,049 (261,102 gallons £11,307); British West Indies—27,208 gallons, £1,643 (86,428 gallons, £4,963).

Rice: Burma—22,827 cwts., £9,788 (227,413 cwts., £100,515).

Sugar: France— 5,182 cwts., £3,288 (1,056 cwts., £684); United Kingdom—3,773 cwts., £2,855 (11,557 cwts., £9,123).

Tobacco, all kinds: Canada—62,994 lb., £2,974 (100,104 lb., £4,629); United Kingdom—27,861 lb., £6,256 (41,852 lb., £9,576).

Domestic Exports.

8. The quantities and values of the principal domestic exports and re-exports other than bullion and specie for the year 1938, as compared with 1937 were as follows:—

Commodities	1937. Quantity.	1937. Value.	1938. Quantity.	1938. Value.
		£		£
Groundnuts ... tons	67,084	427,317	46,981	246,691
Hides & Skins... lbs.	109,108	1,839	105,261	1,960
Palm Kernels... tons	861	4,858	681	4,535
Beeswax ... lbs.	35,424	909	49,331	1,845

Re-exports.

Articles,	1937. Quantity.	1937. Value.	1938. Quantity.	1938. Value.
		£		£
Aircraft parts & accessories	—	24,704	—	22,792
Metal Manufactures ...	—	2,576	—	2,996
Motor vehicles & parts ...	—	1,960	—	827
Motor spirits ... galls.	31,194	1,601	36,885	2,252
Textile manufactures ...	—	1,372	—	1,387

9. Imports and exports of coin and currency notes in 1938, as compared with the previous four years, were as follows:—

Imports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	604	—	200	51,551	128,350
Currency Notes	3,722	30,000	—	45,000	—

Exports.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	53,600	100,496	34,000	10,000	46,400
Currency Notes	150	3,484	21,834	912	500

Chapter VIII. Labour.

The principal labour in the Protectorate is peasant—proprietor farming. Each year a fluctuating number of natives from the neighbouring French territories enters the Colony to engage, on a share-cropping basis, in the production of groundnuts and some of these immigrants obtain alternative work in the wharf towns transporting nuts between stores for the buyers and loading ships. The number of these labourers is small compared with those engaged in agriculture and theirs is the only other form of labour in the Protectorate. There are no mines, plantations, estates or European enterprises of other kinds for which labour is needed.

In Bathurst the only constant employer of labour is the Government and the three departments mainly concerned, the Public Works Department, the Health Department and the Marine Department, employ at their busiest periods less than 1,000 in the aggregate, including skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. These labourers are engaged in road work, water-pipe laying and electrical work, sanitation and shipyard work.

Non-governmental labour is subject to great numerical fluctuation. At the peak of the short trading season, November to April, the number of men employed by the mercantile firms rises as occasion demands, *i.e.*, when ships are being loaded, to as many as 2,000 but that rate of employment is maintained for very short periods. This casual, seasonal labour is all unskilled; it is indeed almost all some form of porterage, and a large number of those engaged in it come from the neighbouring French territory. The supply of such migratory labour varies in accordance with the amount of financial profit to be anticipated from the production of groundnuts. After a good season, when selling prices have been high, the supply of immigrant labour decreases, though never sufficiently to cause anxiety. An increase in the rates of pay is enough to procure the numbers required from more proximate sources. After a year of bad selling prices the supply of migratory workers exceeds the demand. There are no factories or industries in Bathurst.

The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, amended the definition of " night work " (which includes the interval between 10.0 p.m. and 5.0 a.m.) in the Labour Ordinance, 1933, by empowering the Governor, if he is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances affecting the workers employed in a particular industry or area, and after consultation with employers and employed, to order that in the case of women employed in that industry or area the interval between 11.0 p.m. and 6.0 a.m. may be substituted for the interval between 10 p.m. and 5.0 a.m.

The Ordinance also provides that the general prohibition of the employment of women in night work shall not apply to women holding responsible positions of management who are not ordinarily engaged in manual work. These two amendments were made to

give effect to the Draft International Convention concerning the Employment of Women during the Night, 1934 which constitutes a revision of the Draft Convention of 1919, the provisions of which were given effect to in the Labour Ordinance, 1933.

Under section 21 of the Labour Ordinance, 1933, the Governor appointed an Advisory Board for the purpose of keeping himself informed of the labour conditions in the Gambia.

The Labour Advisory Board was formed in April, 1938, and the following were appointed Members:—The Harbour Master and Marine Superintendent, the Medical Officer of Health, Councillor W. Hayward, Agent Elder Dempster Lines, and Mr. J. L. N'Jie, President of the Bathurst Trade Union. At a meeting of the Board held on 8th December, 1938, it was decided that the Labour Advisory Board should function in an advisory capacity only, that a labour officer should be appointed and that legislation should be passed making statistical returns compulsory. Regulations are being prepared prescribing the duties and governing the procedure of the Board in accordance with those decisions.

Chapter IX. Wages and Cost of Living.

The Labour Ordinance of 1933 empowers the Governor-in-Council to regulate rates of wages, and agreements between employers and labour but not to prescribe the weekly hours of labour. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

Wages.—The usual wages paid for artisans such as carpenters, masons, etc., vary from 2s. 6d. to 6s. a day according to the skill of the employee.

Unskilled labour rates vary slightly and might be classified as:—

(*a*) Monthly employees—30s. to 36s. with generally a rice ration allowance of 45 lbs.

(*b*) Casual labour on daily wage—1s. to 1s. 3d. a day.

(*c*) Farm labourers—board and lodging during the planting season and a proportion of the proceeds. Such labour is generally from outside the colony and returns home after the reaping of the crops.

(d) Semi-skilled such as sanitary labourers—1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day.

(*e*) Piece work labourers—employed usually on loading or discharging ships, may earn 2s. to 5s. a day.

There are no factories or industries; local activity is principally restricted to producing the staple product of groundnuts which is seasonal, although a considerable amount of millet, guinea corn, rice and garden produce is also grown.

The crops are grown by the native population on their own behalf, and there are no permanent plantations. The hired labour is therefore small and is principally confined to the trading firms and the various Government Departments.

Cost of Living.—The native population lives principally on rice, millet and guinea-corn but a considerable amount of sugar, fish and salt is also consumed; meat and groundnuts are also used.

The daily cost of a labourer's food in the towns may be reckoned as:—

Rice or corn	3d.
Bread	1d.
Fish	1½d.
Oil (generally palm)	1½d.
Sugar	½d.
Condiments	½d.
Total ...	8d.

If meat and groundnuts are substituted for fish and rice the daily cost is increased by about 1d.

House rent and clothing enter very little in the cost of living, possibly not more than 3s. a month is expended on an average.

The prices of those imported foodstuffs in general use are given below:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rice per bag of 216 lb.	1	0	0	to	1	4	0
Salt per bag of 28 lb.					0	0	10
Flour per bag of 98 lb.					1	0	0
Edible oil (palm) per 4 gal. tin					0	6	6
Sugar per lb.					0	0	3

The prices of the locally produced foodstuffs would be:—

	£	s.	d.
Fillet per lb.	0	0	9½
Steak per lb.	0	0	7½
Meat with bone per lb.	0	0	6
Heart liver and brain per lb.	0	0	5
Kidney each	0	0	4½
Skin, tripe, trimmings and offal per lb. ...	0	0	5
Mutton per lb.	0	0	6
Kidney (sheep) each	0	0	2
Fish per lb. approximately	0	0	1½
Groundnuts per bushel	0	1	0
Corn (guinea) per bag of 216 lb.	0	12	0

Cost of living.—European Government Officials—The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual minimum outlay, exclusive of clothing and luxuries, of an unmarried Government Official living in Bathurst:—

	£
Servants	70
Washing	12
Fuel and lighting	30
Food	120
Total	£232

To this amount must be added expenditure on personal comforts, which amounts almost to a necessity, and which varies according to taste. The cost of the normal personal comforts is:—

Cigarettes (Players, Gold Flake, etc.)	2s. per tin of 50.
Whisky	9s. 6d. a bottle.
Gin	6s. 6d. a bottle.
Beer	11d. a bottle.
Wines (table)	2s. a bottle and upwards.

Chapter X. Education and Welfare Institutions.

At the end of 1937 the Education Department, which had previously been in the charge of an Administrative Officer holding the duty post of Superintendent of Education, was put under the charge of a full-time Superintendent of Education seconded from Nigeria. Towards the end of 1938 the title of this officer was changed to that of Director of Education.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst where the Director has his quarters and office. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy, Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

There is a Board of Education which is presided over by the Director of Education. The Board consists of one representative from each misison or educational body working in the Colony or Protectorate appointed by the Governor, together with not less than three other members of whom one must be an African, and one a woman. It is the duty of the Board to recommend to the Governor any changes in legislation; to make any reports to the Governor which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education; and generally to perform such duties as may be prescribed or as the Governor may direct. The Board met three times during the year and a number of schemes for the improvement of the existing details of educational organization were considered, approved and subsequently put into action with Government's consent.

In Bathurst, with the exception of one school, elementary and secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants. The exception is the Muhammedan School which is supervised by a Committee of leading Muhammedans assisted by the Director of Education. The teachers in this school are paid by Government.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which in 1938 had a total of 1,698 pupils on the registers (1,154 boys and 544 girls) and an average attendance of 1,277. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools; one for boys and one for girls, neither of them fully graded, maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission, and one fully graded Boys' High School and one fully graded Girls' High School both maintained by the Methodist Misison. The total numbers on the registers in 1938 were sixty-nine boys and 128 girls with average attendances of fifty-seven and 101 respectively. Four scholarships to these secondary schools are awarded each year by the Government.

The Teacher Training School which was opened in Bathurst in 1930 continues to train students and there were six students on the roll in 1938.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with fifty-six on the register during 1938. Pupils in this school are drawn from all parts of the Protectorate and a large portion of the curriculum is devoted to handwork and agriculture. The small assisted day school at Georgetown run by the Methodist Mission which was closed in 1937 owing to staffing difficulties was re-opened during the year and is being run on less academic and more utilitarian lines. The Anglican Mission maintains two day schools and the Roman Catholic Missions three day schools (all unasissted) in the Protectorate.

In addition to the local school Standard VII and the Clerical Service examinations, the following external examinations were held during the year:—London Matriculation, the Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary examinations.

The year witnessed several improvements in educational organisation among which may be mentioned a higher percentage of school attendance, the decision to introduce more up-to-date text-books, greater attention to Physical Training in the curricula, and the cutting down of abnormally large classes. All schools are gradually being organized in accordance with the Schedule of the 1935 Education Ordinance.

The closing, owing to staffing difficulties, of the Manual Training Centre for schools maintained by Government at the Public Works Department has left a gap in educational activities which has not yet been filled but it has led schools to consider ways and means of broadening their curricula so as to include a certain amount of handwork, and some have made arrangements for the teaching of carpentry and gardening to their pupils. Special attention is paid to Domestic Science in the Roman Catholic Girls' Schools.

There is no University Education in the Colony.

Welfare Institutions, etc.—Free Medical Treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV, the Government maintains Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreations, etc.—In Bathurst, Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground in Half Die, Bathurst, is in course of construction and should be available for use in the near future. This ground is to be a memorial to His late Majesty King George V and part of the money required for its construction is being raised by subscriptions from past and present residents in the Gambia.

Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once a week by the Police Band in front of Government House where the Marina gardens are open to the public. The concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

Chapter XI. Communications and Transport.

External.

For ocean mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines, Ltd. There is a regular monthly service; intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government continued the agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and Europe. This company operates a service weekly throughout the year.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Frankfurt—Marseilles—Lisbon—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The Luft Hansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, a catapult ship, flying-boats and airplanes.

The outward mail leaves London on Wednesday evening, Frankfurt on Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrives in Bathurst on Friday at 1 a.m. The trans-Atlantic crossing is effected direct from Bathurst by flying boat, and the mail reaches South America on Friday at 8 p.m.

The homeward mail plane leaves Natal on Friday, arriving in Bathurst on Saturday morning. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which leaves Bathurst on Saturday morning, arrives in Frankfurt on Sunday afternoon and in London on Monday.

Elders Colonial Airways Ltd. started a weekly airmail service between Freetown and Bathurst in June, 1938. The Service calls at Bolama and Conakry and is available for a limited number of passengers. It is operated by one flying-boat based on Freetown, and was for technical reasons suspended for several months at the end of the year.

Bathurst Harbour.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages off shore vary from nine to fourteen fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. In the channel from the open sea to the harbour the least depth of water charted is 27 feet.

Government Wharf is supported on concrete and steel piles and has a decking of ferro-concrete. It is equipped with two 2½ ton petrol cranes and a system of hand truck rails. The " T " head

of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 11 feet close alongside at L.W.O.S.T. There are eleven other wharves the " T " heads of which are from 20 to 60 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1½ hours after high and low water by the shore; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream swirls sometimes occur at springs during and immediately after the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well marked by a light vessel, buoys, and light structures, an additional light having been established at Barra Point in 1938.

Internal.

River Transport.—The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than twelve feet draught, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst.

At Kuntaur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draught of nineteen feet. Vessels not exceeding six feet six inches in draught can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, river steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

Marine Department.—A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government Steamers " *Prince of Wales* " (400 tons) and "*Lady Denham* " (250 tons). Two Government lighters " *Vampire* " (170 tons) and " *Mansa Kila Ba* " (70 tons) are also available for additional cargoes.

The Steamers call at twenty-eight ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles). They do not normally proceed beyond Basse but should they go to Fattoto (288 miles) thirty-three ports are called at. A weekly service which has been temporarily curtailed to fortnightly sailings is maintained during the trade season from November to May and a fortnightly or monthly service for the remainder of the year.

Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows:—

	1936.	*1937.*	*1938.*
Passengers carried	12,751	13,410	6,701
Cargo (tons) ...	6,076	6,334	917*
Revenue from passenger traffic	£3,952 0 0	£3,858 0 0	£2,307 11 3
Revenue from Freight	£4,069 0 0	£4,245 0 0	£1,796 11 0

* Exclusive of 23,011 packages carried.

Revenue from freight includes £139 2s. 0d. from hire of launches.

A noteworthy feature of the decline in freight is the withdrawal of shipments of groundnuts by firms. In 1937 the revenue derived from the transport of groundnuts was £1,371 19*s*. 1*d*. This fell to £60 in 1938.

The refitting of Government steamers and of vessels belonging to firms is carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross—the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for harbour services at Bathurst.

Ferries.—Passengers and vehicular ferries, installed by Government in connection with the road system, plied at the following points:—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)	
Brumen (connecting roads Nos. 1 and 3)	
Lamin Koto—MacCarthy Island	
Sankulikunda—MacCarthy Island	
Bansang	continuation of Road No. 2.
Basse	
Fattoto (Passenger only)	
Kau-ur—Jessadi	

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1938.

Roads.—There are four trunk roads, which are except for No. 1 unmetalled:—

No. 1. Bathurst - Jeshwang - Abuko - Lamin - Yundum-Brikama - Kafuta - N'Demban - Bwiam - Brumen Ferry (90¾ miles). This road is metalled as far as Brikama.

No. 2. Barra - Berrending (Bantanding) - Dasilami - Kerewan Ferry - Saba - Banni - N'Jakunda - Illissa (62 miles).

No. 3 Illiassa - Katchang - Konkoba - Kwinella - Jataba - Brumen Ferry (22½ miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French boundary (2½ miles).

No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on trunk road No. 2) to the French boundary (¾ miles).

In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa *via* Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the south bank running from Kwinella (on trunk road No. 3.) to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows:—

North Bank Province	116 miles.
South Bank Province	95 ,,
MacCarthy Island Province	280 ,,
Upper River Province	200 ,,

Postal Services.—Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The Kuntau-ur office is closed during the rainy season (June to October). There is also a postal agency at Kerewan, North Bank Province.

The total number of letters, postcards, papers, etc., dealt with during 1938 was 236,617—a decrease of 6,712 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,259 as compared with 4,668 in 1937. In addition, 1,228 small postal packets were handled. 22,004 airmail letters were despatched and 15,149 were received during the year.

Money and Postal Order Statistics are as follows:—

	1937.	1938.
	£	£
Money Orders issued and paid, value ...	24,948	10,993
Revenue derived from Money Orders ...	145	95
Postal Orders issued and paid	8,834	6,754
Revenue derived from Postal Orders ...	71	54

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1938 was £10,439 as compared with £14,132 in 1937.

Telephone Service.—A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and at Cape St. Mary, the total number of subscribers exclusive of extensions, being 115. The total value of the service was £717, of which amount £487 represented the value of free service to Government Departments.

Wireless Service.—Internal communication is maintained by four wireless stations established at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The station at Bathurst has a range of 500 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the Wireless service in 1938 was £835 including £452 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1937 were £1,077 and £407 respectively.

Telegraph Cables.—There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., has a station in Bathurst and cables run to Sierra Leone to the south and St. Vincent to the north.

Chapter XII. Public Works.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the Annual Estimates, for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department, for the licensing and control of Petroleum Stores under the Petroleum Ordinance and for the enforcement of the Building Regulations for the Town of Bathurst.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, one Executive Engineer, one Technical Office Assistant, two Clerks of Works, one Mechanical Foreman, Electrical Superintendent and Assistant Electrical Foreman, and three African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of an Accountant and nine African Clerks.

The Department operates the Bathurst electric light and power services comprising some fourty-seven miles of distribution mains, the ice making plant, the Albert Market refrigerating plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the fire protection plant and the Government motor transport service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and in the Protectorate the main road from Bathurst which branches to Cape St. Mary and to the Kombo North and Central Districts is similarly maintained.

(*a*) *Maintenance.* (*Expenditure £18,048.*)

Bathurst Water Supply.—The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1938 was calculated as 57,617,600 gallons.

The rates charged are as follows:—

General Water Rate ...	... 1½% on rateable value.
Water supply rate ...	... £2 *per annum.*
Supply rate to vessels ...	... 1s. 4d. per 100 gallons.
Meter rate	... 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons
Washing out ground nut stores	£2 10s. per hour.

Revenue, 1938:

	£
General and Supply rates	801
Supply to vessels	222
Meter rate	91
Total ...	£1,114

Water supplied to the following metered consumers was:—

R.W.A.F.F.	750,000	gallons.
Prison	1,174,365	,,
Botanical Gardens, Cape St. Mary ...	611,035	,,
Cooling Plant, Albert Market, Bathurst	401,572	,,
Power Station	394,080	,,
Marine Department	495,775	,,
Ships and private consumers ...	1,246,983	,,
	5,073,810	gallons.

Electric Light and Power Services.—The Power Station is situated in the centre of the Town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of five solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators 1 × 220 kw., 2 × 100 kw., 1 × 50 kw., and 1 × 25 kw. Total 495 kw.

System A.C. 3 phase, 4 wire, 50 periods. Consumers voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Feeder and distributors overhead cable.

Number of private consumers 284 an increase of seven during the year.

Supply commenced June, 1926.

Total units generated 1938, 552,643 B.T.U.

Maximum load recorded 202.5 kw.

Total connected load 674.5 kw.

Total motors conneteed 345 b.h.p.

Public lighting 710 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some thirteen miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 65 K.V.A. transformer at the north end of the town—the voltage being stepped-up to 6,600 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Cape St. Mary eight miles away, where it feeds a 43.5 K.V.A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about five miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1938 were as follows:—

(*a*) Units sold			112,954
(*b*) Ice Factory			5,875
(*c*) Public Services, Street Lighting	260,190		
(*d*) Public Services, Govt. House ...	20,338		
(*e*) Public Services, Hospital, Clinics, etc.	32,313		
(*f*) Public Services, Market	9,637		
(*g*) Public Services, Police Station and Prison	8,545		
(*h*) Public Services, Customs Shed and Wharf	2,925		
Carried forward...	333,948		118,829

Brought forward ...	333,948	118,829
(*i*) Public Services, Half Die Pumping Station	1,919	
(*j*) Public Services, Box Bar	7,600	
(*k*) Public Services, Post Office, Wireless, Telephones and Wireless Station	4,857	
(*l*) Public Works Department ...	8,899	
(*m*) Public Services, Marine	13,686	
(*n*) Public Services, Printing Office ...	2,925	
(*o*) Public Services, Fire Protection Plant	70	
(*p*) Public Services—Other Government Offices	3,953	
		377,857
(*q*) Power Station (auxiliaries) ...		41,050
(*r*) Lost in distribution		14,907
Total Units generated		552,643

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1938 on maintenance amounted to £3,987.

Ice Factory.—The Public Works Department also operate and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to approximately 19¾ tons.

Market Cold Store.—A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 153½ tons of meat passed through this storage in 1938.

(*b*) *Construction, etc.* (*Expenditure £11,607.*)

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

	£
Minor Works	540
Roads	3,903
Hospital Bansang	2,160
Agricultural Headquarters Georgetown	1,146
Sanitary works (latrines and soakage chambers)	672
Customs Shed Extension (completion) ...	407
Timber Store, Marine	222
King George V Memorial	1,508

Colonial Development Scheme.—The development of water supply, Bathurst (£15,693) was carried on during the year and satisfactory progress was made.

The work is practically completed except for the coupling of the new pumps.

Revenue earned by the Department:

	£
Water	1,114
Electric Light	13,731
Ice factory	176
Transport	1,537
Petroleum Licence and Magazine Rent	461
Miscellaneous	166

Chapter XIII. Justice and Police.

Administration of Justice.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court, the Coroner's Court and the Mohammedan Court.

The Mohammedan Court was established in 1905. It is presided over by the Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Bathurst Police Court is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court, which is a Subordinate Court of the first class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (sec. 7), pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £200.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a variety of matters is conferred by a number of local Ordinances.

In addition the Police Magistrate may be empowered in certain circumstances by the Supreme Court to exercise the powers and jurisdiction of a Commissioner in civil and criminal matters arising in the Protectorate. (cf. p. 43).

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the second class and may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8), pass the following sentences:—

(*a*) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
(*b*) Fine not exceeding £50.
(*c*) Corporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the first class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

The Court of Requests is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, deduction and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners, who are Justices of the Peace. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is a Superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England. It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from the Subordinate Courts, the Judge reviews criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate, if necessity arises. In certain circumstances a Deputy Judge may be appointed by the Governor to exercise all the powers of a judge concurrently with the Judge.

The Supreme Court has the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as it possesses in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

The Protectorate Courts are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Provincial Court Ordinance, 1935, and are presided over by a Commissioner, or an Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissioner they are Subordinate Courts of the first class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q.v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides the Court is a Subordinate Court of the second class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q.v.) Provincial Courts have a civil jurisdiction in all claims up to £100. An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court in a criminal matter.

When ver in any civil or criminal matter or cause pending before a Provincial Court it is made to appear to the Judge of the Supreme Court that such an order will tend to the more speedy or satisfactory administration of justice or is otherwise expedient, the Judge may order such cause or matter to be heard by the Police Magistrate, who for such purpose shall have all the powers and jurisdiction vested in a Commissioner.

Native Tribunals were established in each District by the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, constituted by the native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan Law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, succession, the rights of parents and guardianship, when the parties are both Mohammedans, and also the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a Native Tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades with the following jurisdiction:—

Grade A.—Criminal causes, which can be adequately punished by nine months' imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine. Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damages does not exceed £50.

Grade B.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by six months' imprisonment or a fine of £10 or both such imprisonment and fine. Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damages does not exceed £25.

The Commissioner of the Province has wide powers of control and revision of the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

Coroner's Court.—A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioners.

Judicial Staff.—There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty-nine Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi and approximately two hundred members of Native Tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees received in connection with cases heard in Bathurst.

Crime.—In the Colony 384 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 568 persons in 1937. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 873 offences as compared with 1,247 offences in 1937.

The number of Criminal Informations filed in the Supreme Court was twenty-one.

Statistics for the year 1938.

Criminal:—

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	21	5	—	16
Police Court ...	384	48	8	328
Provincial Courts:—				
North Bank Province	47	—	2	45
South Bank Province	28	—	—	28
MacCarthy Is. Province	54	—	1	53
Upper River Province	47	—	2	45
Native Tribunals:—				
North Bank Province	127	1	—	126
South Bank Province	236	7	—	229
MacCarthy Is. Province	194	4	—	190
Upper River Province	132	20	—	112

Civil:—

Supreme Court	59 cases.
Mohammedan Court	167 ,,
Court of Requests	1,582 ,,
Bathurst Police Court (rating, etc., cases) ...	298 ,,
Provincial Courts	203 ,,
Native Tribunals	426 ,,

Police.

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Superintendent of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Chief Inspector of Police and the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of a Pay Clerk and Quartermaster, an Inspector of Police, four Sub-Inspectors and 122 other ranks including twenty-five Band.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of weights and measures, traffic control, fire fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as " Badge Messengers ").

Maintenance of Law and Order.

Statistics:—

	1937.	*1938.*
Cases dealt with	378	306
Prosecutions conducted (persons) ...	303	208
Inquest summonses served	19	17
Convictions obtained (persons) ...	268	156
Warrants executed	11	12
Summonses and subpœnas served ...	3,094	781

Issue of Licences:—

Motor Vehicle	509	590
Dog	70	73
Firearms	154*	164*
Domestic servant	427	487
Motor Driver	592	549
Liquor	35	35
Entertainment	15	21

* Bathurst only.

Traffic Control.—Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finger Print Bureau.—The Bureau, which was organised in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

Weights and Measures are dealt with in Chapter XV.

Relations with the Public.—Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

Training.—Being an armed Force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instructions:—

Law and general police duties.
Observation training.
Traffic control.
Physical training.
Infantry drill.
Musketry.
Fire drill.

Health.—The health of the Force during 1938 was satisfactory.

Band.—The public concerts given weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Prison.

In the Gambia the main Prison is situated at Bathurst, but there are native prisons at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island Province and Kerewan North Bank Province. The buildings of the Prison at Bathurst which were formerly used as an isolation hospital were converted into a prison in 1920. They are constructed of crinting and plaster, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and a pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three association wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out-houses. The warders are accommodated close to the prison.

Staff.—The staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Superintendent of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Superintendent of Police), an African Chief Warder and twenty-three other African warders.

Health.—The prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1938 was good, the daily average number of sick being .51 per cent of the average daily number in the prison.

Visiting Committee.—The prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Assistant Receiver General and an African Member of the Legislative Council. In addition, all Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

Juvenile Offenders.—On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

Female Prisoners.—Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

Employment of prisoners.—In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking, etc., prisoners are employed regularly at Government House garden, and on minor public works under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained at the prison by prison labour and, during 1938, 10,950 lb. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.—The discipline during 1938 was good, twenty-two offences being recorded. Five prisoners escaped; of these three were recaptured and two are still at large.

	1937.	*1938.*
Admissions (Bathurst)	163	178
Discharges	137	155
Average daily number of prisoners ...	58.9	71.3

Chapter XIV. Legislation.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed in 1938. The only ones which call for special comment are:—

1. The Advertisements Regulation Ordinance, 1938. The purpose of this Ordinance is to attempt to control the exhibition of unsightly advertisements. It confers power on the Governor-in-Council to make Regulations for the control, prohibition and removal of advertisements of any kind whatsoever which are visible from any road, street or public thoroughfare or from the inland or territorial waters or from any other place to which the public have access. Under the Regulations which have been made under the Ordinance any advertisement which disfigures the natural beauty of any scenery or affects injuriously the amenities of any locality, town or village is not permitted to be erected or exhibited and if erected or exhibited may be removed by the Director of Public Works. In addition it is not lawful to exhibit any advertisement in or upon any land, building, tree, vessel or craft, provided that this prohibition shall not apply to any advertisement as to trade business, entertainment, meeting, auction or sale upon or in relation to the land or building upon which it is displayed or any such advertisement exhibited upon any board or placard which is circulated by being carried by a person employed for that purpose. In addition, the prohibition does not extend to the use of shop windows or doors for the advertisement of merchandise in any shop or to the neat lettering painted upon vehicles advertising the business of any person. "Advertisement" includes announcement or direction and any bill, poster, sign, signboard, sky sign, placard, leaflet, notice, and any structure or apparatus erected or intended only for the display of advertisements.

2. The Civil Marriage Ordinance, 1938, which enables civil marriages to be celebrated in the Gambia.

3. The Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1938. This Ordinance provides for the preparation and publication of a Revised Edition of the Laws. The last Revised Edition was published in 1926.

4. The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938. This Ordinance enables the Governor to appoint a Deputy Judge of the Supreme Court who shall exercise all the judicial powers of the Judge of the Supreme Court.

Chapter XV. Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

Banks.—The only Bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Savings Bank, administered by the Post Office, the rate of interest being 2½ per cent per annum. At the 31st of December, 1938, the deposits amounted to £4,810 in respect of 1,349 depositors.

Currency.—The Currency is British West African alloy and nickel coins of denominations 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d., 1d., half-penny and one-tenth of a penny, and British West African currency notes of 20s., and 10s., denominations.

Stocks of currency are held on behalf of the West African currency board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required against payment in London.

The value of the notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1938, was £258,351 as compared with £264,700 on the 31st December, 1937, whilst alloy coins to the value of £192,365 were in circulation at the end of 1938 as against £380,214 at the end of the previous year.

Weights and Measures.—Standard weights and measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial measures of capacity, length and surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance of 1902 and are kept by the Government. The Superintendent of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

Chapter XVI. Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years were:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1929	£235,265	£289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015
1933	231,787	180,161
1934	221,564	174,663
1935	245,485	194,669
1936	257,180	209,000
1937	285,204	243,323
1938	166,749	263,199

Development Loan.—On the 1st February, 1933, the Crown Agents for the Colonies arranged a loan for the purpose of meeting part of the cost of development works undertaken in the Colony, *viz.*, improvement of roads water supply and wharf.

The amount of stock issued was £38,759 13s. 9d. at £97 per cent bearing 3½ per cent interest per annum. The loan is redeemable in thirty years and a sinking fund contribution is made at the rate of 1.9 per cent per annum. At the close of the year the sinking fund stood at £4,609.

Government Funds.

(*a*) General Revenue Balance on 31st December, 1938	£ 58,786
(*b*) Reserve	227,390
(*c*) Steamer Depreciation Reserve	21,435
	£307,611

Taxation.—The main sources of Revenue from taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows:—

Customs Import Duties.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Ad valorem ...	8,392	10,519	10,227	14,559	5,387
Specific:—					
Kola Nuts ...	38,559	54,689	55,059	43,743	21,679
Kerosene & Petroleum ...	6,151	7,872	5,808	9,894	5,612
Spirits ...	3,430	3,906	3,369	4,425	2,980
Tobacco ...	8,974	17,150	14,764	16,124	10,247

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ...	2,695	4,355	4,796	4,695	2,743
Cottons ...	14,273	22,395	34,549	28,503	4,359
Wines ...	1,353	2,438	2,060	2,995	2,682
Other articles	12,515	14,028	13,371	17,276	8,464
Rice ...	9,120	13,774	16,212	25,39	2,640
Parcel Post	492	530	427	568	309
Customs Export Duty.					
Ground-nuts	35,666	22,358	24,594	33,361	23,453
Total Customs Duties.	£141,620	£174,014	£185,236	£201,542	£90,555
Port Dues	2,768	3,023	3,625	4,075	2,388
Protectorate Taxes	13,638	11,365	13,332	11,918	13,620
Trade Licences	3,195	3,347	3,865	4,369	2,587
Other Licences Liquor, Motor Car etc.	2,126	2,627	2,231	3,014	3,033
Town Rates	2,242	1,978	1,523	2,080	2,117
TOTAL	£165,589	£196,354	£209,812	£226,998	£114,300

Excise and Stamp duties.—There are no excise duties. The revenue collected in 1938 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £163.

Yard Tax.—Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed:—

	s.	d.
(*a*) For every yard containing not more than four Huts or Houses	5	0
(*b*) For every additional Hut or House in the yard	1	6
(*c*) For every person residing in a yard other than a member of the family of owner or occupier ...	2	0
(*d*) For every person residing in a yard who is not a member of the family of the owner or occupier and who cultivates public land ...	8	0

Chapter XVII. Land and Survey.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are performed in regard to lands held under lease from Government, the revision and preparation of plans, and valuation of properties prepared. The Rates Assessment Committee, with the Land Officer as Chairman, held numerous sittings at the Land Office to assess the rates for the Town of Bathurst, and the Rating List was prepared by the Clerk to the Committee, who is also Chief Clerk in the Land Office, assisted by other members of the Staff.

Grants and Leases of public lands in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding fourteen years with certain exceptions.

Plots at the various trading centres in the Protectorate or "Wharf Towns" as they are called, where groundnuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the Town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10s. per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2 10s. per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands and wharf licences in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £6,960 for the year 1938 whilst £132 was received in respect of survey fees. In 1937 the rents and rates amounted to £6,840 and the fees for surveys to £106. Expenditure was £1,983 in 1938 as compared with £1,872 in 1937.

Activities during 1938.

Surveys.—Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

Numerous surveys were carried out in Bathurst and the Protectorate.

A new survey of the Fajara building estate was continued and further detail added to the map.

The following surveys of wharf towns were revised:—
Bansang, Kau-ur, Basse Santa Su and Kuntau-ur.

Plans.—Sixty-two plans were prepared in connection with lands and wharves granted or licensed and endorsed on deeds.

Fifteen tracings of plots and wharves surveyed were made. Maps of Georgetown, Basse and the Fajara Estate were revised. Numerous plans, tracings and sunprints were supplied to other Departments and the British Airways Survey Party.

Grants and Leases.—Twenty-one leases and wharf licences were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.—The Rating list for 1938 was completed early in the year and that for 1939 was prepared for public inspection.

Miscellaneous.—The Land and Survey Department supplied the Public Works Department throughout the year with the correct local time for regulating the clocks.

Valuations of properties in Bathurst were made for the Curator of Intestate Estates.

Acquisition.—Certain properties were valued and acquired for sites in connection with the sanitation of the Town of Bathurst.

Aerodromes.—Assistance was rendered to the Survey Party acting on behalf of British Airways during May to June, and the positions of the sites provisionally selected for an Aerodrome were pointed out on the ground.

Chapter XVIII. Miscellaneous.

One of the most important events of the year was the inauguration of a passenger and air mail service between Bathurst and Freetown, Sierra Leone by Elders Colonial Airways, Ltd. Two visits by representatives of British Airways, Ltd., were made on the 27th May and 31st December respectively for the purpose of investigating local conditions.

On the 26th November a tragic disaster occurred when the Deutsche Luft Hansa landplane D—AIVI "*Preussen*", which had arrived in Bathurst on an experimental flight, struck a palm tree on taking off from the aerodrome at Jeshwang and burst into flames.

Twelve members of the crew of fifteen were killed and the three survivors suffered severely from burns and lacerations.

The Gambia Company, Royal West African Frontier Force, proceeded to Freetown, Sierra Leone in two detachments for a period of two years on the 21st October and the 27th October respectively for the purpose of higher training facilities. The Company was replaced by "A" Company of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force.

During the year a scheme was launched for the provision in Bathurst of a playing field in memory of His late Majesty King George V. The field is estimated to cost £2,500 of which Government is contributing £1,920. It is hoped to raise the balance by public subscription.

H.M.S. "*Rochester*" visited the Colony for five days from the 4th February and proceeded up river as far as Kuntau-ur. H.M.S. "*Penzance*" visited Bathurst for three days in April, H.M.S. "*Londonderry*" for five days in August, H.M.S. "*Milford*" for six days in October and H.M.S. "*Amphion*" for three days in November.

Appendix I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

Name.	Address in the Gambia.	Address of Head Office outside the Gambia.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street Bathurst.	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4, England.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	Represented by Office Cooperatif de l'Afrique Francaise 22 Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Francaise de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	18, Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	Represented by Maurel Frères Société à responsibilité Limitée, 6, Quai Louis XVIII Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements V. Q. Petersen et Cie.	do.	29, Boulevarde Pinet Laprade, Dakar, F.W.A.
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street Bathurst.	Campbell Bros, Carter & Co., Ltd. 37–41 Gracechurch St: London, E. C. 3, England.
M. K. Bahsali, Ltd.	do.	J. Bahsali, 82, Princess Street, Manchester, England.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR OF PUBLICATION.	AGENT.	PRICE. £	s.	d.
The Gambia Colony and Protectorate: An Official Handbook.	Francis Bisset Archer	1906	St. Bride's Press Ltd., London.	0	10	6
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve, C.M.G., M.I.C.E., F.R.G.S., F.A.S.	1912	Messrs. Smith Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London.	0	6	0
Report on the Agricultural Conditions and Needs of the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1921	Receiver General Bathurst.	0	5	0
List of Plants collected in the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1922	do.	0	1	0
Vocabulary of the Mandingo Language together with an Addenda.	Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.B. (Oxon).	1924	do.	0	10	0
Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P., (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies), on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.	—	1926	Receiver General Bathurst, and Crown Agents for the Colonies, London, Eng.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper B. Sc. (Eng.)	1927	do.	0	3	0
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa.	Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	1931	Receiver General Bathurst.	0	5	0
A Short History of the Gambia.	W. T. Hamlyn	1931	do.	0	2	0
A Short Phrase Book and Classified Vocabulary of the Mandinka Language.	G. N. N. Nunn B.A. (Cantab.)	1934	do.	0	1	6
A Short Study of the Western Mandinka Language.	W. T. Hamlyn	1935	do.	0	5	0
Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	Receiver General and Crown Agents.	0	2	0
Blue Book of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Report of the Agricultural Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Report of the Education Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Report of the Medical Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	5	0
The Gambia (for use in Schools).	—	1937	Receiver General Bathurst	0	0	4
The Birds of Tropical West Africa Vols. I to V.	D. A. Bannerman	1938	Crown Agents for the Colonies, London England.	15/- to 22/6 per volume.		

GAMBIA WEST AFRICA

Scale 1:1,000,000

SENEGAL

PORTUGUESE GUINEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

17° 16° 15° 14° 13°

REFERENCE

DISTRICTS

1 Kombo St. Mary
2 North Kombo
3 South "
4 Central "
5 East "
6 Foni Brefet
7 Bintang Karon
8 Foni Kansala
9 " Bondali
10 " Jonnel
11 Kiang West
12 Central Kiang
13 Eastern "
14 Western Jarra
15 Central "
16 Eastern "
17 Dunkunku Niamina
18 Western "
19 Eastern Niamina
20 Fulladu West
21 " East
22 Kantora
23 Wuli
24 Sandu
25 Sami
26 Niani
27 Nianija
28 Upper Saloum
29 Lower "
30 Upper Baddibu
31 Central "
32 Lower "
33 Jokadu or Joka
34 Upper Niumi
35 Lower "
36 MacCarthy Island

International Boundary
Provincial "
District "

FERRIES

A Brumen Ferry
B Kerewan "
C Kau-ur "
D Lamin-Kote "
E Sankuli Kunda Ferry
F Banjang Ferry
G Basse "
H Fatato "

TRUNK ROADS

Bathurst – Brumen Ferry
Barra – Illiasa
Illiasa – Brumen Ferry
Bantanding – French Bury

PROVINCIAL HEAD QUARTERS

Cape St Mary
Kerewan
Georgetown
Basse

A 327/1953 4,4282, 575, 6.1959, M&S, 6/59.

Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE ... AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA.
Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

... OF NORTHERN RHODESIA.
... 6 & 7 Geo. V, c. 8.] 6d. (1d.)
[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

... FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.
Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

... ROYAL COMMISSION
[Cmd. 3018] 3s. 6d. (3s. 11d.)

PALESTINE.
... of Policy. [Cmd. 3019] 6d. (7d.)

... OF THE COLONIAL SERVICE IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND THE ... SERVICE
Report of Committee 1934 [Cmd. 4563] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE
Report of Committee [Cmd. 4570 (1934)] 9d. (1d.)

PENSIONS, ... AND OTHER ALLOWANCES ... THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS
Report of Committee [Cmd. 3954] 3s. (3s. 2d.)

COLONIAL STUDENTS.
Report of the Colonial Students Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1933 [Colonial No. 101] 9d. (10d.)

Lists are issued showing salaries of Officers in the Colonial Service with the names and last appointments of the holders. Each list includes the Annual Pensionable Pay of the Officers belonging to the various establishments:—

Colonial Administrative Service List [Colonial No. 147] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)
Colonial Agricultural Service List [Colonial No. 137] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.)
Colonial Audit Service List [Colonial No. 126] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Forest Service List [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)
Colonial Legal Service List [Colonial No. 138] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Medical Service List [Colonial No. 139] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List [Colonial No. 136] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

LONDON, W.C.2: York House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2: 120, George Street MANCHESTER 1: 26, York Street
CARDIFF: 1, St. Andrew's Crescent BELFAST: 80, Chichester Street
or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

The Colonial Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, many of which contain maps of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are obtainable at the subscription price of £10 per annum. [This rate does not include Mandated Territories.] Individual Reports may also be purchased as a standing order placed for their annual supply.

ADEN
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BRITISH GUIANA
BRITISH HONDURAS
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
BRUNEI, STATE OF
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
GOLD COAST
GRENADA
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
KENYA
SUDAN
LEEWARD ISLANDS
NEW COLONY & PROTECTORATE
NIGERIA
NORTHERN RHODESIA
NYASALAND
PERAK
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SOMALILAND
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
TONGA
TONGA ISLANDS PROTECTORATE
TRINIDAD
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

MAURITIUS
SWAZILAND PROTECTORATE

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the manner in which the following territories are administered by H.M. Government under Mandate from the League of Nations:

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